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PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS EIGHTEENTH SESSION

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INTRODUCTION

The eighteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 15 to 26 May 1995. The Council adopted the present proceedings at the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May 1995.

Chapter I

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

1. The eighteenth session of the UNEP Governing Council was opened on 15 May 1995 by Dr. E.O.A. Aina (Nigeria). President of the Council at its seventeenth session. Reviewing the work carried out since the seventeenth session, he said that efforts had been made to strengthen UNEP, enhance its programmes and obtain more funding commitments and pledges to contribute to the Environment Fund. Two major environmental conventions had come into force and the instrument for the restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF) had been adopted. However, there had yet to be significant progress in implementing Agenda 21 and budget reductions within the United Nations threatened to jeopardize vital UNEP programmes and the environmental activities of many developing countries.

2. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council heard a statement by the Executive Director of UNEP. The statement was subsequently circulated under the symbol UNEP/GC.18/34/Add.1.

3. At the same meeting, the Council also heard a statement by Mr. W. N'Dow, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) (Habitat), delivered on his behalf by Mr. M. Hildebrand, Director of Programme Coordination, UNCHS (Habitat), who said that his organization's cooperation with UNEP had made considerable progress, particularly in the context of the Sustainable Cities Programme. While the two organizations had different mandates, there was a solid basis for complementarity and synergy. That was of particular importance in the preparations for the Habitat II Conference, to be held at Istanbul in June 1996.

4. The representative of Kenya welcomed the participants to Nairobi.

B. Attendance

5. The following 52 States members of the Governing Council[1] were represented at the session:

Argentina
Australia
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
France
Gambia
Germany
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Malaysia
Mexico
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Senegal
Slovak Republic

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[1] The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 35th plenary meeting of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the 95th plenary meeting of the forty-seventh session, held on 19 January 1993 and the 54th plenary meeting of the forty-eighth session, held on 11 November 1993 (decisions 46/306, 47/318 and 48/309).

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Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

6. The following States not members of the Governing Council but Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers:

Algeria
Angola
Austria
Belgium
Benin
Burkina Faso
Comoros
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Finland
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guinea
Holy See
Iceland
Iraq
Israel
Kazakhstan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Lesotho
Malawi
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
New Zealand
Norway
Oman
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Saudi Arabia
Seychelles
South Africa
Suriname
Swaziland
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Viet Nam
Yemen

7. The following United Nations bodies and Secretariat units were represented:

Department of Humanitarian Affairs (UNDHA)
Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (UNDPCSD)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO)
International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS)
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
Interim Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC)
Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

8. The Commission on Sustainable Development and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention to Combat Desertification (INC/CCD) were also represented.

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9. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Universal Postal Union (UPU)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was also represented.

10. The following other intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Asian Development Bank (ADB)
European Community
Commonwealth Secretariat
Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
Inter-State Ecological Council (IEC)
League of Arab States
Organization of African Unity (OAU)
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS)
Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)
Preparatory Commission for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment Programme (PERSGA)
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)

11. In addition, 37 international non-governmental organizations were represented by observers.

C. Election of officers

12. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:	Mr. S. Shafqat Kakakhel (Pakistan)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. S. Ongeri (Kenya) Mr. P. Suian (Romania) Mr. P.F. Unwin (United Kingdom)
Rapporteur:	Mr. J.M. Ovalle (Chile)

13. In his acceptance statement, the President said that the state of the global environment presented some bewildering contradictions. Growing attention was being paid to the environment at the national and international levels but there was a growing gap between what needed to be done and the measures actually adopted. Despite some progress, the overall picture was one of unabated, indeed accelerated, degradation of the environment. In the circumstances, it was necessary to enhance UNEP's standing as a politically sensitive, technically and scientifically credible and well managed organization, so that it might receive the support and resources necessary to carry out its mandates.

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D. Credentials of representatives

14. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Bureau examined the credentials of representatives attending the session. The Bureau found the credentials in order with one exception and so reported to the Council, which approved the Bureau's report at the 8th meeting of the session, on 25 May.

E. Agenda

15. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council at its seventeenth session, as amended at its fourth special session (UNEP/GC.18/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
    - (a) Election of officers;
    - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
    - (a) State of the environment;
    - (b) Emerging policy issues;
    - (c) Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations;
    - (d) Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility.
5. Implementation of Agenda 21.
6. Environment and economics.
7. Administrative and budgetary matters.
8. Provisional agenda, date and place of the nineteenth session of the Council.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of the work of the session

16. At the opening meeting of the session, the Governing Council considered and approved the organization of the work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.18/1/Add.1/Rev.1 and Corr.1) and the timetable of meetings suggested by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.18/1/Add.1/Rev.1 and Corr.1, annex I).

17. In accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure and following the organizational structure for its sessions decided upon at its fifteenth session (decision 15/1, section II, paragraph 2 of 25 May 1989), the Governing Council at its opening meeting established two sessional committees of the whole, a Programme Committee to deal with programme matters and a Committee for Administrative and budgetary matters to deal with the Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters. The Council decided that the Programme Committee should deal primarily with those parts of agenda item 4 (Policy issues) that concerned the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997, together with agenda item 5 (Implementation of Agenda 21) and agenda item 6 (Environment and economics). The Programme Committee would also take up the report of the Executive Director on review of the role and function of the regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme, which had been issued under agenda item 7 (Administrative and Budgetary Matters). The Council also decided that the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters should deal exclusively with agenda item 7 (Administrative and budgetary matters).

18. It was agreed that the two sessional committees would meet concurrently during the first week of the session to complete their work by the afternoon of Friday, 19 May. Plenary would recommence at the ministerial or equivalent level, on Monday, 22 May, in keeping with section II, paragraph 2 (b), of Council decision 15/1, to discuss the policy issues raised under agenda item 4 and the remaining items of the agenda.

19. The Council also agreed that the Programme Committee and Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters should be chaired respectively by Mr. P. Unwin (United Kingdom) and Mr. S. Ongeri (Kenya), vice-presidents of the Council. The Council also decided that Mr. P. Suian (Romania), Vice-President of the Council, would assist the President in the performance of his functions related to plenary.

20. The Council further decided to establish an informal open-ended negotiating group under the chairmanship of the President, Mr. S.S. Kakakhel (Pakistan), with a core membership of two representatives from each regional group to consider the texts of draft decisions on policy issues before their submission to the plenary meeting of the Council for formal consideration.

G. Work of the sessional committees

21. The Programme Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. P. Unwin (United Kingdom) held 13 meetings, from 15 to 20 May. At its 1st meeting, it approved the proposals for the organization of its work as contained in document UNEP/GC.18/PC/L.1. At its 2nd meeting, it elected Mr. W. Jasinski (Poland) as Rapporteur.

22. The Council took note of the Committee's report at its 9th plenary meeting, on 25 May. The report of the Programme Committee, which was originally circulated as document UNEP/GC.18/39 and Corr.1, is reproduced in annex II of the present proceedings.

23. The Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters, under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Ongeri (Kenya), held 10 meetings, from 15 to 19 May. At its 1st meeting, on 15 May, it approved the proposals for the organization of its work as contained in document UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.1. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 May 1995, it elected Ms. D. Alopaeus-Stahl (Sweden) as Rapporteur.

24. The Council took note of the Committee's report at its 8th plenary meeting, on 25 May. The report of the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters, which was originally circulated as document UNEP/GC.18/38 and Corr.1, is reproduced in annex III of the present proceedings.

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Chapter II

ADOPTION OF DECISIONS*

The role and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/1)

1. At the 10th meeting of the eighteenth session, on 26 May 1995, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.29/Rev.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.29) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the informal negotiating group by the President in his capacity as Chairman of the group following informal consultations.

2. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Review of the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/2)

3. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.66) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, European Union, Ghana, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Uganda, and the United States of America, as amended by the President in his capacity as Chairman of the group after informal consultations.

4. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Globalization and the environment (decision 18/3)

5. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.65) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean Group, as amended in the informal negotiating group by France and Malaysia.

6. The Secretary of the Council made an oral correction to the first line of the first subparagraph of the operative part of the draft decision.

7. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

8. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of Malaysia said that she wished to put on record her Government's reservations concerning any UNEP activities that sought to perpetuate the linkage between trade and environment, which her Government considered had the undesirable effect of providing the basis and pretext for non-tariff barriers on products from the developing countries. It had been with great reluctance that her delegation had continued to participate in the discussions on the subject at the current session. She also requested that her statement should be taken into account in connection with the adoption of the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 (see paras. 117-119 below).

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* For the text of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its eighteenth session, see annex I to the present report.

9. The representative of China said that his country attached great importance to the subject matter of the decision and believed that UNEP should devote particular attention to it in the light of the situation facing developing countries and their particular circumstances. Concerning the studies and recommendations on the issue, the secretariat should not cause any unfavourable influence on the sustainable development and international trade of developing countries. He hoped that a wide range of views of the developing countries would be taken into account by the secretariat in its consideration of the issue.

The role of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/4)

10. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.55) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Australia, Canada, Chile, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and Switzerland, as revised in the informal negotiating group by Australia on behalf of the sponsors.

11. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

In-depth evaluation of the environment programme (decision 18/5)

12. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.62) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by him in his capacity as Chairman of the informal negotiating group, as amended in the group by Egypt.

13. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

United Nations Environment Programme and women in environment and development (decision 18/6)

14. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.61) submitted by the President prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by China, Chile, European Union, Kenya, Nigeria, Norway and Zimbabwe, as revised by Sweden on behalf of the sponsors.

15. The representative of Sweden, introducing the draft decision on behalf of its original sponsors, drew attention to its annex, which was in the form of a message from the Governing Council to the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women, which was to be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995. Having introduced an oral correction to paragraph 4 of that annex, he said that the issue of gender equality, particularly in the context of paragraph 2 of the draft decision, had to be seen in the perspective of the obvious need to respect the personal qualifications needed to fill specific vacancies.

16. The representative of Colombia introduced a number of corrections to the Spanish text of the draft decision.

17. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environment and sustainable development: relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development (decision 18/7)

18. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.18/Rev.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.18) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the informal negotiating group by France, on behalf of the European Union, and Pakistan.

19. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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Statement on the environment (decision 18/8)

20. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.22/Rev.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.22) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the informal negotiating group by Malaysia.

21. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Further development of international law aiming at sustainable development (decision 18/9)

22. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.26/Rev.2) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.26) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the Programme Committee (UNEP/GC.18/L.26/Rev.1) and by Switzerland, on behalf of a small working group, in the informal negotiating group.

23. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Good environmental housekeeping within the United Nations system (decision 18/10)

24. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.37), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, European Union, India, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Switzerland and Zambia as amended by Bangladesh, Philippines, Malaysia and Rwanda.

25. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (decision 18/11)

26. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.58) submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of the Arab Group.

27. The Executive Director said that the draft decision involved financial implications estimated at $150,00 above what was currently included in the budget.

28. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

29. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of the United States of America made the following statement and requested that it be included verbatim in the present report:

> "My Government supports the work of the United Nations Environment Programme. We do not, however, support the description in this resolution of the territories occupied by Israel in June 1968 as 'Occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories' because this could be seen as prejudging permanent status issues which must be negotiated by the parties concerned. We disavow this language. But given our favourable view of UNEP's work, we have chosen not to call for a vote on this resolution despite our disagreement with the language included in it."

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30. The representative of Egypt, one of the Arab States that had sponsored the draft decision, wanted to place on record his country's satisfaction at the progress made along the path of global, just and lasting peace. He considered that such progress was due to the fact that all parties had come to realize that there was no other option but peace. The progress in the peace process, particularly after the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Accord in Washington, in September 1993, had enabled UNEP representatives to exercise, for the first time, their functions inside the occupied Palestinian territories in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The environmental situation in the occupied Arab territories was marked, as shown in the Executive Director's report, by a critical status quo. His country was of the view that establishing pillars of peace, fairness and stability required improving conditions in the environment, life and economy in the occupied territories, thus giving glimpses of hope to respond to causes of tension and instability. He was hopeful that the adoption of the decision by consensus would be the beginning of a new era of cooperation, understanding and striving for the peace and security to which one aspired.

31. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that the Islamic Republic of Iran believed that the so-called Middle East peace talks were not in the interest of Muslim people of the Palestine. The action taken by the regime of the occupied Quds in destroying Palestinian houses, building Jewish settlements, controlling drinking water, illegally and unlawfully occupying Palestinian territories, and so forth, all had destructive impacts on environment. However, in order to create a sound spirit of cooperation among members of the Governing Council, his delegation had not expressed any opposition regarding paragraphs (a) and (b) of the suggested action in the report of the Executive Director on the issue (UNEP/GC.18/18 and Corr.1) or paragraph 1 of that document. The rest of the document was, however, constructive. His delegation had intended to create a suitable atmosphere for helping oppressed people of Palestine, but that should not be seen as a confirmation of the so-called Middle East peace talks or recognition of the regime of the occupied Quds which was the main cause of environmental degradation in the region. Therefore, his delegation reserved its position, reserved on those paragraphs.

Development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, and consideration of further measures to reduce the risks from hazardous chemicals (decision 18/12)

32. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.54) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.11) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives as amended in the informal negotiating group by Poland on behalf of a small informal working group.

33. The Executive Director said that the draft decision involved financial implications estimated at $1.7 million above what was currently included in the budget.

34. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

35. Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of Senegal introduced a proposal, supported by Australia, Colombia, the European Union, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Norway, Pakistan, Poland and the United States of America, for the inclusion of an additional operative paragraph reading as follows:

> "Welcomes the offer of the Government of the Netherlands to host a final session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee and a diplomatic conference for the purpose of adopting and signing an internationally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade."

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Future strategy document in the field of the environment (decision 18/13)

36. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.23/Rev.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.23) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

37. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group (decision 18/14)

38. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.24/Rev.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.24) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the informal negotiating group by Canada.

39. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (decision 18/15)

40. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.20/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended on the recommendation of a small open-ended working group (UNEP/GC.18/L.20).

41. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of major international events (decision 18/16)

42. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.6/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.6).

43. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/17)

44. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.7/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.7).

45. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Estimates of the costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention (decision 18/18)

46. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.8/Rev.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.8) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives as amended in the informal negotiating group by Pakistan.

47. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies (decision 18/19)

48. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.2/Rev.1) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.2).

49. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Climate (decisions 18/20 A and B)

The Climate Agenda (decision 18/20 A)

50. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.21/Rev.1 and Corr.1) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.21) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives as amended in the informal negotiating group by France, on behalf of the European Union.

51. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (decision 18/20 B)

52. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.3/Rev.1) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.3).

53. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Joint IAEA/IMO/UNEP Working Group on the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea (decision 18/21)

54. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.9/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.9), as amended by Chile, supported by Argentina, Colombia and Cuba.

55. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

International environmental technology centres (decision 18/22)

56. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.4/Rev.1) submitted by the President prepared on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.4) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives as amended in the informal negotiating group by France supported by Malaysia, Mauritius and Senegal.

57. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level, international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts of exports (decision 18/23)

58. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.16/Rev.1 and Corr.1) submitted by the President prepared on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.16) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the informal negotiating group by France, Malaysia and the United States of America.

59. The representative of the United States of America said that the last four words of paragraph 9 of the draft decision should read "initial mechanisms of verification".

60. The draft decision, as amended by the representative of the United States of America, was adopted by consensus.

Action for countries with economies in transition (decision 18/24)

61. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.5/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representative (UNEP/GC.18/L.5) and amended by France and the Russian Federation.

62. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (decision 18/25)

63. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.12/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.12), as amended by France.

64. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1993-1994 (decision 18/26)

65. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.15/Rev.2) submitted by the President prepared on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.15) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives as amended in the informal negotiating group by Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, France, on behalf of the European Union, and Kenya.

66. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Earthwatch (decisions 18/27 A to C)

Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment (decision 18/27 A)

67. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.10/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.10), as amended by France and the Russian Federation.

68. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (decision 18/27 B)

69. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.13/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.13).

70. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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New state-of-the-environment report (decision 18/27 C)

71. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.30/Rev.1) submitted by the President prepared on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.30) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended in the informal negotiating group by France.

72. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environmental indicators (decision 18/28)

73. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, (UNEP/GC.18/L.17/Rev.2), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.17), as amended by Colombia, France, Nigeria and the Russian Federation.

74. The Secretary read out an amendment to the descriptive title of the draft decision.

75. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Application of environmental norms by military establishments (decision 18/29)

76. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.27/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.27), as amended by France, Philippines and Russia.

77. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of the decisions concerning forest issues adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session (decision 18/30)

78. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.38), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by Gambia, India, Kenya and Nigeria, as amended by France.

79. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (decision 18/31)

80. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.44), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by Chile, Colombia, European Union, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mozambique, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

81. The Executive Director of UNEP said that the decision involved total financial implications estimated at $3.5 million, of which $1.7 million would be absorbed under the budget for the programme concerned.

82. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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Persistent organic pollutants (decision 18/32)

83. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.45), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by Chile, Colombia, European Union, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mozambique, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

84. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

International coral reef initiative (decision 18/33)

85. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.52) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Australia, Djibouti, Japan, Philippines, Sweden and the United States of America, as revised in the informal negotiating group by the sponsors.

86. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Support from the United Nations Environment Programme for small island developing States and implementation of the Programme of Action of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (decision 18/34)

87. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.56) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Australia, Cuba, Italy, Mauritius, New Zealand and Pakistan.

88. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Lead in gasoline (decision 18/35)

89. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.48) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Mexico, Netherlands, Norway and the United States, as revised by the United States on behalf of the sponsors.

90. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Biological diversity (decisions 18/36 A and B)

Support to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (decision 18/36 A)

91. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.63) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by him in his capacity as Chairman of the informal negotiating group.

92. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Biosafety (decision 18/36 B)

93. At the same 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.46), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by Australia, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland, as amended by Egypt, India, Kenya Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria and Uganda, supported by Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Malaysia and Philippines.

94. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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Environmental training (decisions 18/37 A and B)

Support for the environmental training networks (decision 18/37 A)

95. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.59) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

96. The Executive Director that the draft decision involved financial implications estimated at $2 million above what was currently included in the budget.

97. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Integrated environmental management training (decision 18/37 B

98. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.39) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Australia, the European Union and Switzerland, as amended by Mauritius.

99. The Executive Director said that the decision involved financial implications estimated at $1.3 million above what was currently included in the budget.

100. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Regional representation (decisions 18/38 A, B and C)

Role and function of the regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/38 A)

101. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.25/Rev.1) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.25), as amended by Pakistan.

102. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Decentralization and strengthening of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/38 B)

103. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.47) approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean Group, as revised by Chile and Colombia.

104. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Strengthening of regional coordination (decision 18/38 C)

105. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.60) submitted by the President prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean Group, as amended in the informal negotiating group by India and the United States of America.

106. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

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Regional programmes (decisions 18/39 A to E)

Regional programme support for Africa (decision 18/39 A)

107. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.57) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Zambia on behalf the African Group, as revised in the informal negotiating group by its sponsor.

108. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Technical cooperation among African countries for the building and utilization of capacities and for mobilization of resources for sustainable development in Africa (decision 18/39 B)

109. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.53) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the African Group as revised in the informal negotiating group by Kenya, on behalf of the African Group, and with amendments introduced by France, on behalf of the European Union, and the United States of America.

110. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Programmes of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the regional programme for West Asia (decision 18/39 C)

111. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.51) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Arab Group, as revised in the informal negotiating group by the sponsors.

112. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

North-East Asia Regional Environment Programme (18/39 D)

113. At the 9th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.28/Rev.1), approved by the Programme Committee on the basis of a draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.28), as amended by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Malaysia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

114. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region (decision 18/39 E)

115. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 26 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.50) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as revised in the informal negotiating group by the sponsors.

116. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Proposed programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997 (decision 18/40)

117. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.67) submitted by the President on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/9/Add.1/Rev.2) produced in the Programme Committee, as amended in the informal negotiating group by its Chairman after informal consultations.

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118. The Secretary made an oral correction to paragraph 1 (a) of the draft decision.

119. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

The Environment Fund (decisions 18/41 A to C)

Resources of the Environment Fund (decision 18/41 A)

120. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.31/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.31) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

121. On the proposal of the President, the Council agreed that paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft decision should be amended to bring them into line with paragraphs 2 and 3 of decision 18/40.

122. The amended draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environment Fund: use of resources in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 and proposed use of projected resources in the biennium 1996-1997 (decision 18/41 B)

123. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.31/Add.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.5) submitted by the Chairman of the Committee, as amended by the United States of America and with the addition of the envelope for Fund programme activities for the biennium 1998-1999 agreed by the Committee.

124. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993 (decision 18/41 C)

125. At the 8th meeting of the session, on 25 May, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.19/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.19) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Uganda.

126. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Programme and programme supports costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1994-1995/Management and administrative support costs budget of the Environment Fund: proposed budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (decision 18/42)

127. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.42) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.6) submitted by the Chairman of the Committee, as amended by France, on behalf of the European Union, and the United States of America.

128. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Establishment of a United Nations Office in Nairobi (decision 18/43)

129. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.43) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.7) submitted by Uganda, as revised by the sponsor.

130. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Trust funds (decisions 18/44 A and B)

Management of trust funds (decision 18/44 A)

131. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.41) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.4) submitted by the Chairman of the Committee.

132. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Trust funds (other than convention-supporting trust funds) (decision 18/44 B)

133. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.40) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.3) submitted by the Group of 77 and China, as amended by Romania and Switzerland and revised by the sponsors.

134. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

New developments in conference-servicing (decision 18/45)

135. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.14/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.14) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the United States of America.

136. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement (decision 18/46)

137. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.35/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.35) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

138. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Mercure satellite telecommunications system (decision 18/47)

139. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.34/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.34) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by Italy, Switzerland and the United States of America.

140. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

141. Following the adoption of the decision, the observer for the Philippines said that his delegation still believed that UNEP should have accepted fully the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the issue.

Enhancing the utilization of human resources and the level of expertise within the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 18/48)

142. At the 10th meeting on 26 May 1995, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.33/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.33) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

143. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Individual and corporate consultancies (decision 18/49)

144. At the 8th meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject (UNEP/GC.18/L.32/Rev.1) approved by the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters on the basis of an earlier draft (UNEP/GC.18/L.32) submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, as amended by the Netherlands, on behalf of an informal working group.

145. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

Provisional agenda, date and place of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council

146. At the same meeting, the Governing Council had before it a proposal by the Bureau concerning the date and place of the nineteenth regular session of the Council, together with a draft provisional agenda for the session (UNEP/GC.18/L.49).

147. It was agreed that the nineteenth session would be held in Nairobi from 27 January to 2 February 1997, in order to take account of the strong desire to hold the meeting before the session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to enable an input to be made into that session. The draft provisional agenda was approved without amendment.

Role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

148. Also at the 10th meeting, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives submitted by the Group of 77 and China (UNEP/GC.18/L.64).

149. The draft decision was withdrawn by the representative of Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the sponsors.

150. In withdrawing the draft decision, the representative of Pakistan said that the sponsors had felt deep regret and concern at the amendments that some members of the Council had wished to introduce into the draft decision. Those amendments seemed to indicate a lack of confidence in the Committee of Permanent Representatives and attempted to dilute its role and functions, whereas the sponsors of the draft decision felt that the Committee was irreplaceable. It was therefore with regret that, in order to avoid dissention, the Group of 77 and China had decided to withdraw the draft.

151. The representative of Colombia, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, said that Group, not all of whose members were members of the Group of 77, fully supported the latter's position with regard to the draft decision.

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Chapter III

POLICY ISSUES

1. The Council considered agenda item 4 at its 2nd to 7th meetings, from 22-24 May 1995. In considering the item, it had before it the following documentation: the report of the Executive Director on participation of UNEP in the work of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) (UNEP/GC.18/20); the report of the Executive Director on the periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions (UNEP/GC.18/22 and Corr.1 and Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on environment and sustainable development (UNEP/GC.18/27); the note of the Executive Director on the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the UNEP Governing Council; the policy statement of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.18/34), supplemented by her remarks at the opening of the session (UNEP/GC.18/34/Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on a proposal for a future strategy document in the field of the environment as a successor to the System-wide Medium-term Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.18/36 and Add.1). The following information documents were also before the Council: reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (UNEP/GC.18/Inf.5); in-depth evaluation of the programme on environment by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (UNEP/GC.18/Inf.7).

2. At the 2nd plenary meeting, the opening of the high-level plenary segment of the debate, the Council heard a statement by Prof. George Saitoti, Vice-President of Kenya and Minister of Planning and National Development, who said that the current session of the Governing Council came at a crucial time in the history of UNEP. The world was suffering from "summit fatigue" and a scarcity of development assistance. The genuineness of emphasizing environmental concerns was being queried at both the global and national levels. UNEP had to operate in a changed context and he had no doubt that the issue-oriented and integrated approach it had adopted in its programme would be more effective, as compared to the earlier sectoral approach. He commended the Executive Director and the secretariat for that initiative.

3. One of the most serious problems, he continued, was that UNEP faced declining contributions at a time when the demands on it were growing. The developed countries must generously fund environment-related activities of the United Nations system at the bilateral and regional level, not just as major users of the world's non-renewable resources, but because they too had an obligation based on the sustainability of the global resource base. The developing countries must also take adequate measures to meet their financial commitments to UNEP.

4. As part and parcel of the world community, Kenya was determined to enhance international and regional cooperation for sound management and the conservation of the planet. Kenya had signed and ratified a number of conventions and protocols in the field of environment, and urged countries which had not acceded to them to do so and also to take determined and deliberate steps to achieve the objectives of those instruments. He concluded by recalling that Kenya had offered to host the Permanent Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity, and appealed for support in that regard.

5. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Executive Director of UNEP. The statement was subsequently circulated as document UNEP/GC.18/34/Add.2.

6. The Council, at the opening meeting of its high-level plenary discussion, also heard a statement by Dr. Song Jian, State Councillor of China, who stressed his country's support for the work of UNEP and the organization's innovative integrated approach to resolving global environmental problems. He recognized its past successes and crucial role in the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol, among others. The need for a global partnership was highlighted, he emphasized, since the prosperity of a few could not be long-lived in an ocean of poverty. Partnership, however, required respect for each

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other's sovereignty. He pointed out that 20 per cent of the world's population consumed 70 per cent of its production. To encourage international cooperation in global environmental protection, he drew attention to the following five points:

(a) Economic development should be brought into harmony with environmental protection;

(b) Environmental protection was the common concern of all humankind, and developed countries should bear the primary responsibility;

(c) Global environmental protection required international cooperation;

(d) It was imperative for all countries to follow the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo;

(e) Scientific research on global problems should be intensified.

7. Adequate resources, he said, were critical to UNEP's success, particularly in regard to the developing countries where the major problems included pollution control and the protection of freshwater resources. He pointed out that little progress had been made in the areas of finance and technology transfer. Such transfers were not to be regarded as charity, but an investment in the future of mankind as a whole. In that regard, failing such transfers,environmental protection should not be used as an excuse for raising barriers to trade. He thus informed the Council of China's own Agenda 21.

8. At the opening of the 2nd plenary meeting, the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Director of the Department of the Environment also made a statement, in which he said that global environmental issues had escalated to a point of crisis, despite more environmental conventions and protocols. The main causes were the widening gap between North and South, lack of balance in the contribution of developing countries to world trade, compared with developed ones, and poverty. Regulating equitable international economics and commercial relations, necessary compensation of backwardness, and financial and technological aid to developing countries were among the basic environmental subjects requiring attention. Development, he said, was the right of all developing countries and environmental problems and issues must not become a weapon or pretext against those countries, which needed to exploit and utilize their own resources. Dumped and buried chemical weapons were one of the most important threats to the environment, he said, and had to be dealt with through international measures with all member States, specially developed ones, submitting any information on the amount and location of those chemical agents.

9. UNEP had an important role in the implementation of the Rio Principles and decisions, especially Agenda 21, he said. It should assume an even more active role and it was necessary to enrich the capabilities and capacities of UNEP proportionately. UNEP must help those countries at the stage of capacity-building and institutional strengthening to combating environmental problems. The preparation of international mechanisms for transfer of technology, on the basis of preferential conditions, for achieving sustainable development taking account of environmental considerations should be carefully pursued by UNEP. In addition, he hoped that, with the support of the Governing Council and all member States, UNEP would participate more in the activities of the Global Environment Facility in the future. He concluded by describing some of the achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in implementing the Rio Principles and Agenda 21.

10. Many representatives pointed to the crucial nature of the current session of the Governing Council as the determining factor in whether the global challenges to the environment could be successfully tackled. Many representatives said that special attention must be paid to the needs of the

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developing countries, in order to break the vicious circle of poverty and environmental degradation. A number of representatives said that production and consumption patterns in both developed and developing countries would have to be reformed. Some representatives, reaffirming the importance of sustainable development, stressed the need to integrate environmental concerns into development planning. Two others pointed out that environmental damage caused by developing countries was, in any event, insignificant compared to that caused by the developed countries. Several representatives observed that the unsustainable exploitation of the resources of the South was driven by the consumption patterns of the North. One drew attention to the environmental conditionalities imposed on the developing countries which perpetuated the unjust and inequitable transfer of resources from them to the developed countries. One representative was of the view that, whenever an issue was of concern to the developed world, it was addressed with expediency and funding and other resources could always be found. But issues of concern to developing countries met with excuses and foot-dragging.

11. A number of representatives said that the already huge environmental problems were getting even larger. Some believed that, despite general agreement on what had to be done, UNEP was not making the impact it should. In tackling problems, said several representatives, complex difficulties of coordination and oversight had to be overcome, if duplication or omission were to be avoided. One representative and the observer from an intergovernmental organization (IGO) said that inter-agency coordination in environmental matters must be streamlined, competition between agencies strenuously avoided and the proliferation of environmental meetings resisted. Several other observers from intergovernmental organizations said that their cooperation with UNEP was excellent. One looked forward to closer collaboration under subprogramme element 2.2.1, relating to greenhouse gas reduction technologies. Several representatives said that UNEP, in reappraising its role, had to concentrate on areas where it had comparative advantage, such as environmental law. Several representatives said that, for UNEP to be really effective in the international arena, it must first complete the reshaping of its internal organization, becoming leaner and more results-oriented. Some representatives said UNEP should rationalize its use of Professional staff and reduce its dependency on outside consultants. Another believed existing structures and resources should be better utilized, avoiding the need for new bodies. A number of representatives expressed appreciation of the efforts UNEP had made over the last biennium to refocus its structure and programme. Several representatives maintained that the restructuring of UNEP had gone on for too long and must be completed soon. However, another believed that UNEP should not try to do everything at once: renewal required time and patience. One other representative said that, instead of instituting further change, UNEP should embark on a period of consolidation and quality output. One representative greatly valued the in-depth evaluations of the programme on environment by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretary-General. Some representatives called for a further substantive and managerial examination of UNEP.

12. Many representatives and some observers from intergovernmental organizations emphasized the role of UNEP as the pre-eminent advocate, coordinator and catalyst with regard to the environment, with a leadership role in the United Nations system. Some endorsed the usefulness of the task-manager system and the performance of UNEP as task manager for the implementation of certain key chapters of Agenda 21. Several said UNEP should assume an even stronger role. With regard to UNEP's leadership role, the representative of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) welcomed the efforts by UNEP to strengthen the capacity of the international community to respond to environmental disasters. In that context, he was surprised by the decision of the Programme Committee not to allocate funds to maintain the successful joint UNEP/DHA Environmental Unit. One representative said he had welcomed the establishment of that unit. Two representatives said there was a need to revitalize UNEP and refocus it, to make it the world's environmental voice. Several representatives and the observer from a non-

governmental organization (NGO) said that UNEP had an important role as the environmental conscience of the United Nations. Some other representatives said UNEP must not assume the damaging role of enforcer or coercer in environmental issues. One observer from an IGO supported the proposal by the Executive Director for a future United Nations system-wide strategy document in the field of the environment, as a successor to the System-wide Medium-term Environment Programme (SWMTEP), and the idea of establishing an inter-agency environmental coordination group.

13. Some representatives pointed to the need for a clear understanding of the different roles of UNEP and CSD. Another representative said that UNEP was more specialized than the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). The environment, said several representatives, was only one aspect of the Commission's mandate, which was a high-level, agenda-setting political forum. According to one representative, the need for close coordination between UNEP and CSD did not mean that CSD was in any way subordinate to UNEP. One representative stressed that the respective roles of UNEP and its secretariat, on the one hand, and CSD and its secretariat, on the other, should be clearly delimited. Another said that UNEP should play an increased part in the preparation for, and follow-up to, the work of CSD.

14. Several representatives and the observer from an IGO said UNEP should strengthen collaboration and contact with national research institutions in developed and developing countries. One proposed the establishment, under the auspices of UNEP, of an international scientific advisory body. A number of representatives and two observers from IGOs emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and the importance of the UNEP regional offices in that regard. One representative proposed that at least 60 per cent of the UNEP budget should be allocated to regional and subregional activities. One other representative requested that UNEP should relocate its regional office from Bahrain to Beirut, following the decision of the regional commission for West Asia, in keeping with the recommendation of the Committee on Programme Coordination to streamline United Nations regional activities. Some representatives called for strengthening of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. The representative of Benin requested that the Regional Office for Africa be relocated from Nairobi to West Africa and his country offered to host that office. Some representatives said UNEP should give attention to the problems of small island developing States.

15. One representative wanted a clearer delimitation between headquarters and the regional offices which, as a result, should lead to savings at headquarters level, while avoiding duplication of work. For reasons of efficiency, entire programmatic areas should be transferred, together with personnel and budget responsibility, to the regional offices. The Regional Office for Europe, being situated in the vicinity of OECD, could deal mainly with trade, economics and industry, while the Regional Office for Africa could have its main function in the area of biodiversity, land degradation and desertification. Another representative supported such a devolution of the programme to regional offices and hoped that increased financial support would be provided for the Regional Office for West Asia. He also said there was a need to strengthen the Arab League Liaison Office in Cairo.

16. A number of representatives stressed the importance of international environmental agreements and urged UNEP to promote the development of more such agreements and to monitor the implementation of existing agreements in an effective way. One representative expressed serious concern at the proposal that UNEP should provide a legal framework for facilitating the implementation of Agenda 21, since that task properly belonged to CSD. One representative said the relationship between UNEP and the convention secretariats was delicate. The conventions, as international legal instruments, were not subordinate to UNEP, which owed them the highest standards of administrative service and professional support. Some representatives said that the relationship with the convention secretariats was unsatisfactory and must be improved, for example, by organizing them into a network, reducing their

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number or merging them. Many representatives said that UNEP had an important role in evaluating the impact of the conventions, and one asked the Executive Director to prepare a report on the issue. One representative said that UNEP had an important role in ensuring that the work of the Conventions was implemented in a coherent and coordinated manner, thus avoiding a fragmented approach to environmental issues.

17. The representative of Kenya, reiterating his country's offer to host the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity, pointed to the advantages for the Secretariat of having UNEP's infrastructure already in place in Nairobi.

18. The representative of Spain reiterated her country's offer to host the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity, which included a financial contribution to its operation. In that connection, she added that Spain would host in Madrid, in July 1995, the meeting on the Protocol on Biosafety requested by the Conference of the Parties at its First Meeting. Another representative welcomed the initiative regarding the protocol on biosafety.

19. Many representatives and some observers for intergovernmental organizations stressed the need for appropriate UNEP mechanisms to work with the non-governmental organizations. The observer from an NGO regretted that the work programme of UNEP showed no coherent policy towards NGO involvement. He pointed to the recommendations of the Central Evaluation Unit that a permanent mechanism should be created to institutionalize a system-wide dialogue with NGOs, rather than the ad hoc process currently followed, and that the Executive Director should begin, as early as possible, a series of informal consultations with NGOs. Several representatives said that UNEP should also involve the private sector, professional associations and other parts of society to harness their capabilities towards the common goal.

20. Several representatives said that the role of the Governing Council was to provide policy direction and leadership, not to engage in day-to-day management. One believed the role of the Council itself should be strengthened. One other representative said that a small group should be set up to prepare a firm Governing Council position with regard to Rio follow-up. Another believed that the current session should give clear policy guidance to the secretariat in the implementation of the revised Montevideo Programme. Several representatives thought that there was a problem regarding inter-sessional guidance to the Secretariat. Some representatives believed that there was a need for a high-level session between traditional Governing Council meetings in order to set priorities and gain control of the environmental agenda. Another representative was of the opinion that the Governments themselves were lacking in their duty to support UNEP seriously, a state of affairs reflected in the number of actual Ministers attending the current session. One representative believed the way in which the current session had been organized implied that the ministerial debate on policy issues was relegated to the background, since the committees had met first and had already proposed decisions. He wished to see a new procedure at the next session. Several considered that alternative solutions should be explored, perhaps an enhanced role for the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a system of informal policy consultations, or a bureau to take decisions between sessions. One representative said there was a need to ensure greater input into the guidance of UNEP from Governments that were unable to participate in the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, such as the small island developing States. Another representative said that the authority of the Committee of Permanent Representatives seemed to be doubted by the secretariat.

21. One representative was in favour of annual meetings of the Governing Council. Two representatives proposed that UNEP hold one policy-making meeting a year, with the 1996 meeting held in Nairobi and subsequent meetings in each of the regions. The budgetary implications of such a process could be

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prepared and examined. Some representatives opposed the idea of annual meetings of the Council. One representative said he did not see the value of any change in the governance of UNEP until after the general United Nations post-UNCED review process had been completed in 1997. Several representatives said there was a need for the Council to convene early in 1997, so as to precede the CSD meeting. One suggested that the Executive Director should prepare a set of options for Ministers to consider at a meeting early in 1997.

22. Many representatives and two observers said that UNEP faced declining financial support at a time when demands on it were growing, saying it had to have adequate resources to perform its tasks. Some said that the developed countries bore the prime responsibility for contributions to UNEP. According to several representatives, a reduction in the Environment Fund could limit the role of UNEP to a small advisory body and seriously impair its programme delivery capacity. One representative asked the Council to increase the allocation for the 1996-1997 biennium by at least 50 per cent. Some representatives and the observer from an NGO said that there had to be greater focus on efficient utilization of funds. The current budget accorded a large share to administrative costs; resources had to be directed to the maximum extent towards programme implementation. A number of other representatives said UNEP should channel more resources into fewer core areas, according them high priority. One representative pointed out that the scarcity of funds was not the only impediment to the work of UNEP: its efficiency was also undermined by inefficiency, duplication of efforts with other bodies, and inter-agency rivalry, and he called for more constructive criticism of its functioning.

23. Several representatives said that the principle of equity, based on the needs of the respective regions, should be observed in allocating resources. Another said that no significant progress could be made without a just and equitable contribution of all countries, both developed and developing. A number of representatives urged the Executive Director to explore other ways and means of raising funds. One representative appealed to all contributors to initiate measures to enable them to make multi-year commitments to correspond to the programme cycle. Another representative expressed concern at the huge carry-overs maintained by UNEP from one biennium to another. Some representatives, calling attention to the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, hoped that UNEP would seriously consider the concerns expressed by Governments and take the necessary steps and report thereon as soon as possible. One representative said the proliferation of trust funds demonstrated a trend by developed countries to divert the resources of UNEP to their own agenda.

24. The representative of Mexico, emphasizing the need for UNEP to receive sufficient resources to implement its original plans for a $105 million programme, said her country was prepared to increase its contribution to UNEP, despite the difficult economic situation. She urged other countries to follow suit. The representative of the Czech Republic said his country had already increased its contribution to UNEP by 50 per cent and was prepared to increase its support still further. The representative of the Russian Federation said that, as evidence of its support for UNEP, his country had decided to contribute $ 500,000 to the UNEP budget. The representative of Bhutan said his country was raising its annual contribution to UNEP by 66 per cent.

25. The integrated concept and regionalization of the UNEP work programme received general support. One believed, however, that it should be more focused and pragmatic. A number of representatives and observers from intergovernmental organizations commended the Executive Director on the new programme. One representative said that the financial implications of the individual components and envisaged results of the programme should be further elaborated. Another representative said that, while he supported an integrated approach, he believed that care should be taken to achieve complete and balanced implementation of all the components involved. Another representative said that narrow national perspectives had blurred the focus of

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the programme and that, although the framework was a good one, discipline was needed to keep to the priority activities within it. Many representatives said that the quality of management within UNEP and monitoring of impact and effectiveness were highly important, with clarity and transparency being essential. A number of representatives drew attention to those areas of the new programme that required particular focus. One said that UNEP should address the development of models of governance and decision-making incorporating environmental concerns, the further development and promotion of environmental accounting and assisting Governments to institutionalize Agenda 21.

26. A number of representatives pointed to the need for adequate transfer of environmentally sound and appropriate technologies to the developing countries. One said such transfer represented a real investment in the future.

27. A number of representatives and the observer from an NGO said they wanted UNEP to assume a more active role in the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Some considered that UNEP's most important contribution to GEF lay in the delivery of highly qualified scientific expertise through the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP).

28. A number of representatives expressed concern about the relationship between trade and environmental questions. A number of representatives and observers from intergovernmental organizations expressed the fear that environmental concerns might be used as a pretext for protectionist non-tariff barriers against trade from developing countries. Several pointed out that such practices were already evident and called for the proper liberalization of world trade. Several other representatives said that UNEP should consider ways to ensure that trade policies and environmental policies were mutually supportive, while another strongly felt that UNEP had no role in the area of trade, which was the mandate of UNCTAD and WTO, and warned that, by pursuing its trade agenda, UNEP would institutionalize the trade and environment linkage. Several representatives said UNEP should be the voice of the global environment in dialogue with WTO, notably with regard to the relationship between multilateral environmental agreements and trade regulations.

29. A number of representatives and the observer from an IGO emphasized the importance of the capacity-building and institution-strengthening role of UNEP. Several said UNEP should work closely with UNDP in that field. Another representative said that the establishment of UNEPNET would greatly assist coordination between Governments and the Permanent Representatives in Nairobi.

30. A number of representatives and the observer from an NGO drew attention to the need for UNEP to continue and strengthen its work in the development of international environmental law, which was considered a very important part of its programme, including in such key areas as the notion of sustainability. One observer from an NGO regretted the low level of resources allocated to environmental law, and said it must be given the necessary resources. The new budget cuts also meant that all partners in environmental law should cooperate even more closely. Some representatives did not believe that UNEP should undertake studies in international environmental and sustainable development law. The representative of Austria said that, in its legal work, UNEP should focus more on dispute avoidance and incentive-based, rather than sanction-based, compliance mechanisms, and Austria was therefore financing a study of possible compliance regulations in the Basel regime and hoping to work with other parties on a multilateral consultative mechanism within the framework of the Climate Convention.

31. A number of representatives and the observer from an IGO said UNEP played an important role in monitoring. One supported strengthening of the Environmental Assessment programme, as well as UNEPNET, Mercure and the GRID

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centres. One commended UNEP's efforts to strengthen its monitoring capacity in project implementation and its assessment of the competence of its partner implementing agencies.

32. Several representatives stressed the important role of UNEP in supporting development of national environmental policies and assisting countries in that respect. Several believed such a role to be especially valuable for countries with economies in transition, in dealing with environmental problems.

33. Several representatives commended UNEP on its work on the environment and economics. Another strongly opposed the activities of UNEP in the area of economics, provided for in subprogramme 4 of the new programme of work, saying it would have adverse consequences for developing countries by providing a basis for non-tariff barriers against their products. Other representatives stressed the important role of UNEP in efforts to address the impact of globalization of the economy on the environment.

34. Some representatives stressed the importance of the biodiversity-related work of UNEP. The representative of UNITAR hoped UNEP would support implementation of the new Seville Strategy, relating to the contribution of biosphere reserves to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. One representative stressed that, as the mandated task-manager for biodiversity, UNEP should act in a responsible manner, assisting developing countries to implement their obligations under the Convention and avoiding any interpretation of the Convention or Agenda 21 to justify its activities, which fell outside its purview.

35. A number of representatives stressed the need for UNEP to strengthen its work on freshwater issues, including water supply and sanitation. The observer from an IGO expected water-harvesting to be one of the projects under the Convention to Combat Desertification.

36. A number of representatives and some observers highlighted UNEP's activities concerning oceans and the importance of the Regional Seas Programmes and some called for their strengthening with increased support from donors. Another regretted the meagre contribution by UNEP activities towards highlighting the increasing threat to the marine environment by dumping from ships and sea-based pollution. One representative expressed grave concern about the transport of spent nuclear fuel. A number of representatives considered UNEP's activities in coastal zone management and protection of the marine environment from land-based activities to be a key issue through which information on persistent organic pollutants, sewage and sediments could be gathered and UNEP's role could be enhanced as an international clearing-house for providing information on dealing with such issues. Several representatives welcomed the agreement reached on persistent organic pollutants and waste-water. Another regretted, however, that the expeditious response to the problem of persistent organic pollutants - a problem of concern primarily to the developed world - was not matched by a similar response to issues of concern to developing countries, such as sewage and hazardous chemicals. While supporting efforts to strengthen the Montreal Guidelines, he stressed the need to address the issue of identification of means of implementation and warned against attempts to impose discharge standards that failed to take into account the capacities and needs of developing countries. Rather than develop new conventions on land-based sources, efforts should concentrate on assisting developing countries to enforce existing conventions on sea-based sources of pollution. One representative called for a revitalization of the Action Plan for West and Central Africa, and requested a budget appropriation from the Regional Seas budget to cover the installation of a regional coordinating unit.

37. Several representatives and one observer from an IGO believed it was vital for UNEP to strengthen its environmental information network. Some representatives stressed the need for developing information dissemination and

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the building up of databases. One observer from an NGO welcomed the decision on an environmental law database. Another stressed the need to avoid duplication with other agencies in the development of such a database.

38. Many representatives and some observers from IGOs stressed the need for UNEP to focus more on the issue of soil degradation and desertification. Several drew attention to the urgent action for Africa initiative within the Convention to Combat Desertification. Some others called for a significant increase in budget appropriations for combating desertification. Some called for the speedy ratification of the Convention in 1996 and drew attention to the important role of national action programmes in that regard to ensure food security in the long term. Another said that the Mediterranean countries should have an annex to the Convention.

39. The representative of Sweden attached importance to the environmental responsibility of military establishments and announced her country's contribution of $50,000 for a survey on application of environmental norms by military establishments in developing countries. One representative said a new department had been created in his country's Ministry of Defence to promote the protection of the environment in the context of military actions. The observer from an IGO stressed the importance of the Chemical Weapons Convention to provide a safe environment. Some representatives believed UNEP should focus on the impact of environmental degradation and the emergence of ethnic conflicts and the subsequent displacement of local populations. Several other representatives, said that the abolition of weapons of mass destruction would be a contribution to the protection of the environment and would release significant resources for environmental programmes.

40. One representative urged support for the Middle East peace process as the severe environmental problems in the occupied Palestinian territories could only be effectively addressed by UNEP programmes in the context of sustainable peace. Another, referring to the Executive Director's report contained in document UNEP/GC.18/18, said its references to "Palestinian land" should append the words "Syrian and Arab land". With regard to the efforts of the Netherlands, described in paragraph 2 of document UNEP/GC.18/18, the representative of that country said it was already at work with the Palestinian Authority on an environmental profile of the Gaza Strip and underlined its willingness to commence work on the West Bank.

41. One representative expressed gratitude for the assistance provided by UNEP in evaluating the environmental damage caused by conflict in his country.

42. The representative of Iraq regretted that the sanctions imposed on his country rendered it impossible for it to address vital environmental concerns. Severe problems had developed in freshwater supply and waste disposal, leading to a dramatic rise in mortality rates, particularly among women and children. Numerous projects had had to be stopped. The only effective measure to enable Iraq to address those environmental problems would be the lifting of sanctions and the unfreezing of Iraq's assets in foreign banks.

43. Several representatives, believing the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure to be of global environmental significance, urged the Council to extend the future PIC convention to stop exports of the most hazardous chemicals. Two other representatives deplored the unscrupulous practice of some developed countries which continued to export domestically banned hazardous chemicals and pesticides to developing countries, aware that the latter had no capacity to ensure the safe utilization of such substances. One called for a ban on the export of all domestically prohibited chemicals and pesticides, in line with the Malaysia-Danish-Swedish initiatives on Chemical Safety. Another representative said that the future convention should make the PIC procedure mandatory and that there must be a legal framework to reduce

the most hazardous chemicals. One other representative said UNEP should set a realistic mandate for the negotiating process and draw on the expertise of IRPTC. Two other representatives supported an effective administrative structure for chemicals management at the international level and said the promotion of capacity for chemicals management at the national level was an important role for UNEP. The representative of the Netherlands said that his Government was prepared to act as host for the closing session of the preparations for the future convention, possibly at Rotterdam.

44. Several representatives believed forests to be an issue on which UNEP should concentrate. Several believed that UNEP should participate effectively in the CSD Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and ensure a strong environmental component in the deliberations of that body. Another commented that there was a need for capacity-building in the developing countries to manage the sustainable uses of forests and wildlife. Another representative believed, however, that UNEP should not use it scarce resources on such activities as forestry issues, which came under the mandate of other competent agencies.

45. Several representatives said UNEP should seek to provide more efficient training. The representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) said that training should be tailored to regional needs and provided in languages other than English. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stressed the importance for UNEP of inter-agency cooperation in education, training and awareness-building. In that context he stressed the importance of the joint UNEP/UNESCO International Environmental Education Programme (IEEP). One representative added in that connection that the UNEP/United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) initiative to develop national cleaner production centres for rapidly developing countries was particularly welcome.

46. On the issue of empowerment of women to act for sustainable development, some representatives said the Governing Council should deliver a strong message to the upcoming Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing. One observer from an IGO drew attention to the need to mobilize women, as those responsible for the major part of agricultural production, in order to make effective use of available human resources.

47. The representative of Rwanda said his country had just ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and intended to ratify the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

48. The representative of Turkey informed the Council that his country had just ratified the London Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. The Ratification Bill for the Copenhagen amendment had been submitted to Parliament. The representative of the Czech Republic said his country was ready to ratify the London and Copenhagen amendments to the Montreal Protocol.

49. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania reported that in his country the final stage had been reached in the process of ratifying the Conventions on Biological Diversity, on Climate Change and on protection management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the East African region.

50. The representative of Turkey said his country was willing to host the CSD preparatory intersessional meeting on oceans in 1996.

51. The representative of Cuba announced his country's offer to host the Ninth Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean.

52. Mr. Maurice F. Strong, former Secretary-General of UNCED and former Executive Director of UNEP, welcomed the new focus of UNEP's programme and the Executive Director's initiative to reorient the thrusts of her work programme, given the importance of UNEP's role for the common future of all. He regretted that since Rio there had been a recession in political will to deal with environmental issues. The shift towards a greater globalization of the economy meant greater global environmental risks. Developing countries, he stressed, should not be constrained in their growth in the name of the environment and those who had benefited most in the past should set the example and provide incentives for the change towards sustainability. Cost-effectiveness was to be the keyword in the use of the limited resources available in order to win partners from all sectors of society. Information, integration, environmental law and partnership were the areas for the major catalytic thrust of UNEP. He urged that special attention should be given to Africa's needs and priorities, particularly in respect of desertification.

53. Mr. H.B. Cavalcanti, Chairman of CSD, said that the work of the Commission related to the implementation of Agenda 21 and all other aspects of UNCED relevant to the achievement of sustainable development in all countries. As a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, it submitted appropriate recommendations through the Council to the General Assembly. In the course of its work, it reviewed reports on the subject of sustainable development submitted by the members of the United Nations system, by national Governments and by competent non-governmental organizations, and sought to build a consensus on the basis of innovative open-ended dialogue.

54. Mr. I. Serageldin, Vice-President of the World Bank, said that, since Rio, the Bank had adopted a fourfold agenda. The first part involved assisting its borrowing countries in promoting environmental stewardship. Environmental investments in the developing world, formerly $10 billion, had increased to $18 billion in six years, with loans targeted to reduce pollution, protect soil, forests and parks. New commitments totalled about $2.5 billion per annum. The second part comprised assessing and mitigating any adverse impacts of Bank-financed projects, ensuring that environmental dimensions were properly addressed. The third part entailed investing in people, targeting the poor and women. The final part addressed global and regional challenges. The Bank was also active in the conceptual and methodological work underlying the development paradigm and economic analysis. In building new partnerships, it hoped to convince Finance Ministers that, with the same resources, it was possible to do better. It was encouraging that UNEP was adopting a similar programmatic approach to the challenge of sustainable development, the more so as it was the only platform for monitoring global trends and for intergovernmental discussion of the overall thematic issues, a matter of particular importance when the very idea of development cooperation between North and South was under attack. The times were exceptionally difficult for financing international enterprises but there was profound agreement on the heart of the matter and marginal concessions by all would produce common ground. A strong, well-managed UNEP endowed with adequate resources would make a key contribution to that collaborative effort.

55. Mr. M. Fekrou Kidane, Director of International Cooperation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), expressing best wishes on behalf of the IOC President, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, pointed to the cooperation between IOC and the United Nations system, particularly the upcoming conference on sport and the environment, jointly organized with UNEP, to be held from 12-16 July 1995 in Lausanne. Recalling the success of the Winter Games held at Lillehammer, Norway, in terms of environmental protection, he said that

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future candidates for the holding of the Games would henceforth have to comply with a demanding new set of conditions with the aim of eliminating, or at least minimizing, all impacts on the environment. By definition, he said, athletes were ecologists. It was thus up to the Olympic movement to take the lead in caring for the environment.

56. The Governing Council then proceeded to consider and adopt at its 9th and 10th meetings, a number of decisions on policy issues, namely, decisions 18/1 to 18/17, 18/19 to 18/26, 18/27 B and 18/27 C, 18/29 and 18/38 B to 18/40. The text of these decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in Chapter II of the present report.

Chapter IV

IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

1. As decided by the Council at the 1st meeting of the session (see chapter I, paragraph 17 above), agenda item 5 was discussed in the Programme Committee. The Committee's report on its deliberations is reproduced as annex II to the present proceedings.

2. Having taken note of the report of the Committee at its 9th meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Council at its 9th and 10th meetings on 25 and 26 May adopted two decisions falling under this item (decisions 18/18 and 18/27 A). The text of the decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II, paras. 46-47 and 67-68 above.

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Chapter V

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMICS

1. As decided by the Council at the 1st meeting of the session (see chapter I, paragraph 17 above), agenda item 6 was discussed in the Programme Committee. The Committee's report on its deliberations is reproduced as annex II to the present proceedings.

2. Having taken note of the report of the Committee at its 9th meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Council at its 9th meeting on 25 May adopted a decision falling under this item (decision 18/28). The text of the decision is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and its process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II, paras.73-75 above.

Chapter VI

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

1. As decided by the Council at the 1st meeting of the session (see chapter I, paragraph 17 above), agenda item 7 was discussed in the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters. The Committee's report on its deliberations is reproduced as annex III to the present proceedings.

2. Having taken note of the report of the Committee at its 8th meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Council at its 8th, 9th and 10th meetings on 25 and 26 May adopted a number of decisions falling under this item (decisions 18/38 A and 18/41-18/49). The text of the decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time is recorded in chapter II, paras.101-102 and 120-145 above.

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Chapter VII

PROVISIONAL AGENDA, DATE AND PLACE OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

1. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Council took up its consideration of agenda item 8 (Provisional agenda, date and place of the nineteenth session of the Council). It had before it a proposal by the Bureau concerning the date and place of the nineteenth regular session of the Council, together with a draft provisional agenda for the session (UNEP/GC.18/L.49).

2. After an exchange of views it was agreed that the nineteenth session would be held in Nairobi from 27 January to 7 February 1997, in order to take account of the strong desire to hold the meeting before the session of the CSD and to enable an input to be made into that session. The proposed draft provisional agenda was approved. The text of the decision, as amended, is included in annex I to the present proceedings.

3. The representative of Saudi Arabia, returning to the question at the 10th meeting, on 26 May 1995, said that his country and other Arab and Islamic States were concerned that the proposed dates of the nineteenth session of the Council would coincide with those of Ramadan and Idd al-Fitr, religious holidays observed by Muslims worldwide. Pointing to the General Assembly resolution, whereby United Nations meetings should not be held to coincide with such religious holidays, he was of the opinion that the meeting should be deferred until after 10 February 1997. He requested that his statement of position be placed in the record of the meeting.

Chapter VIII

OTHER MATTERS

1. No matters were raised when this agenda item was taken up by the Council at its 8th meeting, on 25 May 1995.

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Chapter IX

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

1. The present proceedings were adopted at the 10th plenary meeting of the session, on 26 May 1995, on the basis of the draft proceedings circulated as document UNEP/GC.18/L.36 and Add.1 and 2.

2. At its 8th meeting on 25 May, the Council took note of the report of the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters, which is reproduced in annex III to the present proceedings.

3. At its 9th meeting, on 25 May, the Council took note of the report of the Programme Committee, which is reproduced in annex II to the present proceedings.

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Chapter X

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

1. At the 10th meeting, on 26 May 1995, the representative of Colombia, speaking on behalf of the countries of the South-East Pacific, requested the inclusion of the following statement in the report:

> "The countries of the South-East Pacific, taking into account the fruitful inter-institutional collaboration between the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS) and UNEP for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the South-East Pacific, in the context of the UNEP Regional Seas Programmes, and recalling that the flow of international cooperation generated by the Action Plan has enabled Central American countries to widen the scope of their activities, and recalling further the notable increase of their activities and the need to meet new and greater environmental challenges, note with concern the steady decrease in the UNEP biennial budget appropriation. In view of the above, the South-East Pacific countries urge UNEP to give the greatest possible support to the Action Plan for the South-East Pacific, within the budget allocated for the 1996-1997 biennium."

2. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile, speaking on behalf of the Valdivia Group, requested the inclusion of the following statement in the report:

> "Delegations from the member countries of the Group of Temperate Southern Hemisphere countries (Valdivia Group) met and consulted during the eighteenth session of the UNEP Governing Council. The Valdivia Group, which fosters exchanges and cooperation on environmental and scientific matters between the participating nations (Argentina, Australia, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa and Uruguay) was formally established in Valdivia, Chile, on 10 March 1995, where it issued the Valdivia Declaration. In reviewing major developments at the Governing Council, the Group agreed that the decisions on the programme for the next biennium, together with the large number of policy decisions, had set a new course for UNEP in the post-UNCED period. The Valdivia Group of countries reaffirmed their commitment to UNEP as the principal environmental body of the United Nations system, in the conviction that they could make an important contribution to its obligations and activities."

3. After the conclusion of the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the eighteenth session of the Council closed.

Annex I

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
18/1	The role and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme	26 May 1995	49
18/2	Review of the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme	26 May 1995	51
18/3	Globalization and environment	26 May 1995	51
18/4	The role of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations Environment Programme	26 May 1995	52
18/5	In-depth evaluation of the programme on environment	26 May 1995	53
18/6	The United Nations Environment Programme and women in environment and development	26 May 1995	54
18/7	Environment and sustainable development: relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development	26 May 1995	56
18/8	Statement on the environment	26 May 1995	57
18/9	Further development of international law aiming at sustainable development	26 May 1995	58
18/10	Good environmental housekeeping within the United Nations system	25 May 1995	60
18/11	The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories	26 May 1995	62

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18/12	Development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, and consideration of further measures to reduce the risks from hazardous chemicals	26 May 1995	63
18/13	Future strategy document in the field of the environment	26 May 1995	66
18/14	Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group	26 May 1995	66
18/15	Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	25 May 1995	67
18/16	Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of major international events	25 May 1995	68
18/17	Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at is forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme	25 May 1995	69
18/18	Estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention	26 May 1995	70
18/19	Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies	26 May 1995	70
18/20	Climate		72
	A. The Climate Agenda	26 May 1995	72
	B. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	25 May 1995	73

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18/21	Joint International Atomic Energy Agency/International Maritime Organization/United Nations Environment Programme Working Group on the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea	25 May 1995	74
18/22	International environmental technology centres	26 May 1995	75
18/23	Cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level, international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts of exports	26 May 1995	76
18/24	Action for countries with economies in transition	25 May 1995	77
18/25	International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment	25 May 1995	78
18/26	Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1993-1994	26 May 1995	79
18/27	Earthwatch		80
	A. Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment	25 May 1995	80
	B. Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination	25 May 1995	82
	C. New state-of-environment report	26 May 1995	82
18/28	Environmental indicators	25 May 1995	84
18/29	Application of environmental norms by military establishments	25 May 1995	84
18/30	Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of the decisions concerning forest issues adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session	25 May 1995	85

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18/31	Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities	25 May 1995	86
18/32	Persistent organic pollutants	25 May 1995	89
18/33	International coral reef initiative	26 May 1995	91
18/34	Support from the United Nations Environment Programme for small island developing States and implementation of the Programme of Action of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	26 May 1995	93
18/35	Lead in gasoline	26 May 1995	94
18/36	Biological diversity		95
	A. Support to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity	26 May 1995	95
	B. Biosafety	25 May 1995	95
18/37	Environmental training		97
	A. Support for the environmental training networks	26 May 1995	97
	B. Integrated environmental management training	26 May 1995	97
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	A. Role and function of the regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme	26 May 1995	98
	B. Decentralization and strengthening of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme	26 May 1995	99
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18/1. The role and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972,

Noting paragraphs 38.21-23 of Agenda 21,[1] which recognize the need for an enhanced and strengthened role of the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council,

Acknowledging that population, poverty, health, education, technology, patterns of production and consumption and the environment are closely interconnected within the overall framework of sustainable development,

Underlining the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen its role as the central United Nations organ for the environment, while avoiding duplication of work with other international organizations,

1. Appeals to Governments to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 on a priority basis;

2. Decides that the United Nations Environment Programme should concentrate its activities in the following major areas:

(a) Assessing and addressing existing and emerging critical issues in the field of the environment;

(b) Promoting international cooperation in the field of the environment and recommending as appropriate policies to this end;

(c) Acting as a catalyst to address major threats to the environment;

(d) Monitoring the status of the global environment through gathering and dissemination of reliable environmental information;

(e) Facilitating the coordination of the activities of all United Nations bodies on matters concerned with the environment, ensuring through cooperation, liaison and expert participation, that environmental considerations are taken into account in their activities;

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[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

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(f) Supporting, upon request, environment ministries and other national environmental authorities, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in the formulation and implementation of their environmental policies, and related capacity-building activities;

(g) Furthering the development of international environmental law;

(h) Providing expert advice on the development and use of environmental economic concepts and instruments;

(i) Developing regional programmes for the environment;

3. Decides also that the major results of the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme should be:

(a) International arrangements to enhance environmental protection;

(b) Periodic assessments and scientifically sound forecasts designed to support decision-making and the creation of an international consensus on the main environmental threats and responses;

(c) More effective coordination of environmental matters within the United Nations system;

(d) Policy options and advice to Governments, multilateral organizations and others, which incorporate the environmental dimension into the sustainable development process and strengthen environmental protection;

(e) Higher public awareness and greater capacity for environmental management and effective national and international responses to the threats of environmental degradation;

4. Requests the Executive Director to take fully into account the present decision in shaping and executing the future programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. Requests the Executive Director to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General, as a contribution to his preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in 1997 to review the follow-up of Agenda 21, the report of the Governing Council.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/2. Review of the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recognizing that there is a need periodically to review and refine the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme if its functions and responsibilities, as set out in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, are to be fulfilled in the most efficient, effective and transparent manner,

Desiring to take the necessary steps to improve its structures in order to ensure achievement of these goals,

Determined to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme to enable it to fulfil its role as the central United Nations organ for the environment,

1. Decides to review at its nineteenth regular session the governing structures of the United Nations Environment Programme with a view to itself taking action or, where necessary, recommending the General Assembly to take action to modify and streamline those structures to produce in them greater efficiency, effectiveness and transparency;

2. Requests the Executive Director to propose options to this effect to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session, after consultation with Governments.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/3. Globalization and environment

Referring to paragraph 2.5 of Agenda 21,[1] which states that an open and multilateral trade system supported by the adoption of sound environmental policies, would have a positive effect on environment and contribute to sustainable development,

Taking into account paragraph 2.20 of Agenda 21, which indicates that trade and environment policies should be consistent and reinforce the process of sustainable development, taking into account the fact that environmental standards valid for developed countries may have unwarranted social and economic costs in developing ones,

Convinced that the activities in the programme should be consistent with the overall objectives of Agenda 21 and Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] in particular principle 12 of the Rio Declaration,

Taking into account paragraph 38.22 (h) of Agenda 21, where it is stated that international environmental law should continue to be developed, and considering the results of the second and third sessions of the Commission of

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[2] Ibid, annex I.

Sustainable Development, at which the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme were requested to undertake various activities on trade, environment and sustainable development,

Urges the Executive Director to pay special attention to the following:

Regional and national particularities and the implications and impact of sustainable development for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, when:

(a) Evaluating the link between trade and environment policies, international agreements and trade, trade rules, and the development of methodologies to assess the effectiveness of policy instruments, including economic instruments, to achieve environmental protection and sustainable development in consultation with interested Governments;

(b) Providing technical assistance to Governments, where requested, for the analysis and formulation of environmental regulations and legislation to facilitate the implementation of international agreements at national level;

(c) Ensuring that the work under the subprogramme "Globalization and the environment" includes activities which the United Nations Environment Programme was invited to undertake by the Commission on Sustainable Development in its decisions on trade, environment and sustainable development and consumption and production patterns adopted at the second and third sessions of the Commission. In so doing, the United Nations Environment Programme should cooperate with all relevant international organizations.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/4. The role of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Noting the crucial partnership role identified for non-governmental organizations in Agenda 21,[1] in the advancement of sustainable development and environmental protection,

Further noting the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its review of the United Nations Environment Programme,[3]

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[3] See E/AC.51/1995/3, annex (circulated to the Governing Council by a note by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.18/Inf.7)).

Requests the Executive Director to give high priority to developing a policy framework and appropriate mechanisms within the secretariat for working with appropriate non-governmental organizations involved in this field, including the assigning of the function of coordinator to an existing senior position.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/5. In-depth evaluation of the programme on environment

The Governing Council,

Having considered the note by the Executive Director on the in-depth evaluation on the environment programme,[4] transmitting to the Governing Council a note by the Secretary-General on the same subject[5] and the draft report of the discussion of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the in-depth evaluation,[6]

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General and welcoming the attached report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services entitled "In-depth evaluation of the programme on environment", as well as of the draft report and conclusions of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the matter,

1. Requests the Executive Director to consider and take appropriate action on the recommendations in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services entitled "In depth evaluation of the programme on environment";

2. Requests the Executive Director to also take due consideration of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as contained in its draft report.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

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[4] UNEP/GC.18/Inf.7.

[5] E/AC.51/1995/3.

[6] UNEP/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.3. The draft report was adopted without amendment by the Committee for Programme and Coordination on 22 May 1995.

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18/6. The United Nations Environment Programme and women in environment and development

The Governing Council,

Recalling principle 20 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] which holds that women have a vital role in environmental management and development and that their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development,

Recalling its decision 17/4 of 21 May 1993 on the United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 49/161 of 23 December 1994 on the implementation of Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[7] and, in particular, its paragraph 33, which invites, inter alia, United Nations bodies to consider making concrete commitments and specifying action to meet the global priorities for the advancement of women by the year 2000 to be reflected in the Platform of Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Recalling in particular the request in paragraph 24.10 of Agenda 21[1] for each body of the United Nations system to review the number of women in senior policy-level and decision-making posts and, where appropriate, adopt programmes to increase that number, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/71 of 31 May 1991, on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the role of women in environment and development[8] and her intention to integrate fully a gender perspective and balance into the work and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. Welcomes the efforts of the Executive Director to achieve gender equality in the United Nations Environment Programme, including through the setting of goals/targets;

3. Urges Governments to assist the Executive Director in achieving these goals by proposing qualified candidates of both sexes for vacancies announced to Governments;

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[7] Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10) chap. I, sect. A.

[8] UNEP/GC.18/11.

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4. Welcomes the proposals for the Programme's contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women set out in the report of the Executive Director and requests her to further elaborate those proposals;

5. Decides to send a message annexed to the present decision to the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995;

6. Urges the Executive Director to ensure an input and contribution from the United Nations Environment Programme on gender and environment in the preparation of other subsequent major conferences, in particular Habitat II;

7. Requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Council at its nineteenth session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

Annex

1. Women and men are equal partners in sharing responsibility for the future of our Earth. Both genders are equally dependent on the capacities of ecosystems. Equitable access of women to and control over resources - land, money/credit, and decision-making at all levels is essential.

2. Women play a major role and make environmentally crucial choices in key areas of production as well as consumption affecting the environment in both rural and urban areas. Women must be engaged in environmentally sound action at the local level and in action which promotes the sustainable use of natural resources at all levels. Women's experiences and expertise of safeguarding the environment while at the same time seeking to ensure adequate and sustainable resource allocations within households and communities must be acknowledged and incorporated into decision-making processes.

3. As key partners in sustainable development, women have to be recognized and encouraged to fully participate in the furthering of environmental priority issues such as:

(a) Conservation and management of resources (land, water, air);

(b) Development of sustainable household energy;

(c) Sustainable human settlements development and management.

4. To further the active role of women regarding their specific needs and capabilities in relation to the environment, an integral strategy should be developed, which would include, *inter alia*:

(a) Awareness-building;

/...

(b) Participation;

(c) Education.

This would enable women to address the environmental threats and reverse negative trends of environmental degradation and its deleterious effects on human health and well-being.

5. The role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the United Nations system and in its community of partners for the advancement of women as a means to safeguard the environment is to recognize women and facilitate their environmental education and their access to resources through developing a gender perspective in all the activities of the organizations. The United Nations Environment Programme should develop this role and take women's experience and knowledge on board by offering equal job opportunities and providing gender-sensitive working conditions.

6. In the light of Agenda 21, in particular chapter 24, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme invites the Fourth World Conference on Women to give special attention to the environmental aspects of sustainable development in formulating its recommendations for the further advancement of women.

18/7. Environment and sustainable development: relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commission on Sustainable Development

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which gives the Governing Council a mandate, inter alia, to promote international cooperation in the field of the environment, to recommend, as appropriate, policies to that end and to provide policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system,

Recalling chapter 38 of Agenda 21[1] and, in particular, the statements therein that the United Nations Environment Programme is the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of the environment, that there will be a need for an enhanced and strengthened role of the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and that the Governing Council should, within its mandate, continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective,

Reaffirming that the United Nations Environment Programme was established to protect and promote the enhancement of the human environment and that the quality of human life must constitute its central concern, _Having considered_ the report of the Executive Director on environment and sustainable development,[9]

1. _Takes note_ of the report of the Executive Director;

2. _Stresses_ the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to focus on those system-wide activities of the United Nations system for which it has been assigned a special responsibility by Agenda 21, and the major policy issues and challenges in the field of the environment, as determined by the Governing Council;

3. _Emphasizes_ the need for the United Nations Environment Programme, in accordance with its mandate and in implementation of Agenda 21, to continue to provide effective support to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the high-level policy forum for the discussions to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, _inter alia_, through the provision of scientific, technical and policy information and advice on the environment;

4. _Requests_ the Executive Director to inform the Commission on Sustainable Development of the present decision.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/8. _Statement on the environment_

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/6 of 21 May 1993, in which the Council encouraged the Executive Director to continue to examine ways of improving the documentation to be provided as explained in her note on future state-of-the-environment reporting,[10]

Having considered the Executive Director's statement on the environment,[11]

Acknowledging the growing importance of the interface between global economic trends and environmental issues and, in particular, ways and means to bridge environmental assessment activities and environmental management responses,

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[9] UNEP/GC.18/27 and Corr.1.

[10] UNEP/GC.17/Inf.11.

[11] UNEP.GC.18/24.

Noting the new subprogramme, "Globalization and the environment", as contained in the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997,[12] and noting that sectoral linkages involving trade, law, environmental economics and other activities are also integrated into environmental assessment and management programmes,

Noting also the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development on international cooperation and inter-agency coordination in the field of trade, environment and sustainable development, adopted at its second and third sessions,

Emphasizing the need to ensure close cooperation and avoidance of duplication among different international organizations in the area of trade, environment and sustainable development, particularly the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development,

Welcomes the proposed format of the Executive Director's statement and requests her to continue improving it.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/9. Further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992 endorsing Agenda 21[1] and the other documents as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and, in particular the principal environmental challenges identified therein,

Desiring to achieve the implementation of tasks set out in those documents,

Recalling chapter 38 of Agenda 21 on international institutional arrangements, which reaffirms the enhanced and strengthened role of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in providing policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective, and urges the United Nations Environment Programme to concentrate, *inter alia*, on the implementation and further development of international environmental law,

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[12] UNEP/GC.18/9.

Recognizing that chapter 38 of Agenda 21 further urges the United Nations Environment Programme to concentrate on coordinating functions arising from an increasing number of international legal agreements, inter alia, the functioning of the convention secretariats, and the provision of technical, legal and institutional advice to Governments, at their request, for developing and implementing national environmental legislation and institutions, providing training and disseminating legal information,

Recalling its decision 17/25 of 21 May 1993, by which it adopted the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s, and decided to review the implementation of the programme not later than at its nineteenth session,

Recalling also the decision adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development on 27 May 1994 urging the United Nations Environment Programme to study further the concept, requirements and implications of sustainable development and international law,[13]

Welcoming the progress achieved in the implementation and development of international environmental instruments and the conclusion of environmental programmes of action,

Concerned that, despite the encouraging signs, three years after the adoption of Agenda 21 only limited progress has been made in the realization of its goals and objectives and that existing and proposed legal and institutional instruments and arrangements have so far been ineffective in halting the deterioration of the global environment,

Noting the need for enhanced policy guidance with regard to the direction and coordination of United Nations system activities in the field of environment in the context of sustainable development,

Believing that in order to achieve sustainable development it is imperative to address on a priority basis the principal environmental challenges, as contained in Agenda 21, including with reference to relevant social, economic and environmental aspects which should be considered in the contest of the development of international environmental law,

Noting with appreciation the efforts being made by the United Nations Environment Programme as well as other institutions, both within and outside the United Nations system, to further the implementation and development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development,

Believing further that innovative approaches are required in the field of the progressive development and codification of international environmental law in order to achieve sustainable development,

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[13] E/1994/33/Rev.1-E/CN.17/1994/20/Rev.1, chap. I, sect. A, para. 6.

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1. Requests the Executive Director to monitor the implementation of international legal instruments in the field of environment, to elaborate and recommend, where necessary, means to enhance their effectiveness and to provide support, as agreed, to the convention secretariats;

2. Requests the Executive Director to update, within available resources, a compilation of international environmental instruments, with a view to facilitating harmonization of international environmental law;

3. Requests the Executive Director, in implementing the mandate for a database on national and international environment law, to use the existing IUCN data bank as the core archival system and, with view to avoiding duplication of efforts, provide the support necessary to enable it to serve the needs of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular to assist Governments of developing countries in this field;

4. Requests the Executive Director to develop, in preparing the periodic review of environmental law in accordance with Council decision 17/25, a position paper for international environmental law aiming at sustainable development, containing, inter alia, compliance/implementation mechanisms, dispute avoidance/settlement procedures and new concepts and principles, with reference to existing international legal instruments as well as guidelines developed by institutions both within and outside the United Nations system;

5. Requests the Executive Director, within available resources, to prepare a study on the need for and feasibility of new international environmental instruments aiming at sustainable development, addressing, on a priority basis, the principal environmental challenges, including as they relate to the broader issues of sustainable development as set forth in Agenda 21, and, in fulfilling this task, to draw upon relevant work and activities of other United Nations agencies and international organizations;

6. Requests the Executive Director to keep the Committee of Permanent Representatives informed of the progress of the United Nations Environment Programme on the subject and to submit a report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/10. Good environmental housekeeping within the United Nations system

The Governing Council,

Convinced that it is necessary for the United Nations, its specialized agencies and its other bodies to apply and observe good environmental housekeeping standards in their building design and office systems,

/...

Recalling that under General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the Governing Council has, inter alia, the following functions and responsibilities:

(a) To provide general policy guidance for the direction and co-ordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

(b) To receive and review the periodic reports of the Executive Director on the implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system,

Being of the opinion that the United Nations Environment Programme has, under the provisions of resolution 2997 (XXVII), a responsibility to offer policy guidance to the United Nations system on matters of good environmental housekeeping as well as on the application and observance of high standards in this regard,

Convinced of the importance of architects, builders, engineers and other professionals taking into account the environmental significance of global warming, acid rain, depletion of the ozone layer and other environmental issues in the design and maintenance of new and existing buildings used within the United Nations system,

1. Calls on the Executive Director to consider and recommend strategies for the promotion of best practice in environmental housekeeping for use by the United Nations Environment Programme at its headquarters and in its regional offices, and to advise and encourage the rest of the United Nations system to develop and apply similar strategies for continually improving their own environmental performance and promoting sustainable development, with the aim of:

(a) Reducing waste;

(b) Expanding recycling and use of recycled materials;

(c) Conserving energy, water, wood, paper and other natural resources;

(d) Phasing out ozone-depleting substances and minimizing the release of greenhouse gases, volatile organic compounds, vehicle emissions and other substances damaging to health and the environment;

(e) Using their spending power to encourage suppliers to design and provide products, materials, technologies and services which are friendlier to the environment;

(f) Advising architects, builders, engineers and other professionals to take fully into account global warming, acid rain, the depletion of the ozone layer and other environmental issues in the design and maintenance of new and existing buildings for the United Nations system;

2. Requests the Executive Director to encourage bodies within the United Nations system in their respective regular reports, to report on the ways in which they have applied and observed the principle of good environmental housekeeping and the targets they have set themselves in this regard;

3. Notes that any initial expenditure required to improve the performance of the United Nations as an environmentally responsible organization should be offset by long-term savings, for example, from cutting the consumption of energy, water and other resources and reducing waste, and that all expenditure should be designed to achieve maximum value for money, quality, improved performance and better health and comfort;

4. Requests the General Assembly to adopt a resolution calling for the application, as early as possible, of good housekeeping practices by all institutions of the United Nations system on the lines indicated above;

5. Invites the Executive Director to report to each regular session of the Governing Council on the steps that have been taken and progress achieved under this decision by the United Nations Environment Programme and other entities of the United Nations system.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/11. The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly principle 23 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2]

Taking note of the Executive Director's report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,[14]

1. Welcomes the activities which the United Nations Environment Programme is undertaking within the framework of the search for a just and durable peace in the Middle East, and requests the Executive Director to continue to intensify such support;

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[14] UNEP/GC.18/18 and Corr.1.

2. Expresses its concern over the continued degradation of the environmental conditions in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including those in the Palestinian National Authority, and urges the United Nations Environment Programme to take a prominent role in the activities of the Secretary-General's Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories in order to ensure that environmental concerns are given due priority in all the cooperative programmes under the jurisdiction of his office;

3. Requests the Executive Director to update the report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, in keeping with Governing Council decision 17/31 of 21 May 1993;

4. Requests the Executive Director to note and implement Governing Council decision 17/31 by which she was requested to provide technical assistance in Palestinian institutional and self-capacity-building in the field of the environment, including training in the relevant necessary fields.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/12. Development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, and consideration of further measures to reduce the risks from hazardous chemicals

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 16/35 of 31 May 1991, on toxic chemicals, and chapter 19 of Agenda 21,[1]

Having considered the Executive Director's report on development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade,[15]

Aware of the concerns of the international community as regards the risks from trade and/or illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals, including pesticides, as reflected in chapter 19 of Agenda 21 and General Assembly resolutions 37/137 of 17 December 1982, 38/149 of 19 December 1983, 39/229 of 18 December 1984 and 44/226 of 22 December 1989,

Noting a recommendation by the International Conference on Chemical Safety held in Stockholm in April 1994, and the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second and third sessions, held in New York in May 1994 and

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[15] UNEP/GC.18/7 and Add.1.

/...

in April 1995, that the United Nations Environment Programme, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in close consultation with other international organizations, continue to evaluate and address problems with the implementation of the voluntary prior informed consent procedure and to develop effective legally binding instruments concerning the prior informed consent procedure,[16, 17]

Further noting an agreement at the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at its one hundred and seventh session, held in Rome in November 1994, that the secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations should proceed with the preparation of a draft prior informed consent convention as a part of the current Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/United Nations Environment Programme programme on prior informed consent and in cooperation with other international and non-governmental organizations concerned,[18]

Also noting the results of the first meeting of the Intersessional Group of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, held in Bruges, Belgium, from 20 to 23 March 1995, and all the work undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in relation to the prior informed consent procedure,[19]

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the Implementation of the Amended London Guidelines and of the task force established by the Working Group for the development of the instrument envisaged in chapter 19 of Agenda 21,

1. Authorizes the Executive Director to prepare for and convene, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in consultation with Governments and other relevant international organizations, within available resources, an intergovernmental negotiating committee, with a mandate to prepare an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade;

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[16] See the final report of the International Conference on Chemical Safety (IPCS/ICCS/94.8), resolution IPCS/ICCS/94/Res.2, annex, programme area C, para. 9.

[17] E/1994/33/Rev.1-E/CN.17/1994/20/Rev.1, chap. I, sect. E, para. 165.

[18] See Report of the Council of FAO, Hundred and Seventh Session, Rome, 15-21 November 1994 (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 1994), document CL 107/REP.

[19] See First Meeting of the Intersessional Group of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, Bruges, Belgium, 20-23 March 1995, Final Report, document ISG/95.11.

/...

2. Invites the Executive Director to convene in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations a Government-designated group of experts, to consider, taking into account the work done in all relevant forums, including the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, the negotiations on the convention on prior informed consent and the activities to be undertaken in accordance with the Governing Council decision 18/32 of 25 May 1995 on persistent organic pollutants, and recommend what further measures are needed to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals, either within or beyond the scope of existing prior informed consent procedure, and requests the Executive Director to report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session;

3. Decides that at its nineteenth session, the Governing Council, taking into account the recommendations from the Government-designated group of experts, should give consideration to the need to develop further measures, within or beyond the prior informed consent procedure, to reduce the risks from a limited number of hazardous chemicals, including the possibility that the mandate of the intergovernmental negotiating committee for the legally binding prior informed consent procedure be extended to provide a basis for development of such measures;

4. Decides that the intergovernmental negotiating committee shall commence its work as soon as possible and not later than January 1996;

5. Requests the Executive Director to invite relevant international organizations to participate in the negotiating process for the development of the instrument;

6. Calls upon Governments that are in a position to do so to provide the necessary financial and technical resources to enable the full and effective functioning of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, in particular the full and effective participation of developing countries, and of countries with economies in transition;

7. Also requests the Executive Director to convene, together with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a diplomatic conference for the purpose of adopting and signing an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade, preferably not later than early 1997.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

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18/13. Future strategy document in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/16 of 21 May 1993 on implementation and mid-term review of the United Nations system-wide medium-term environment programme for 1990-1995,[20]

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the proposal for a future strategy document in the field of the environment as a successor to the system-wide medium-term environment programme,[21]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director concerning the need for a United Nations system-wide strategy document in the field of environment;

2. Endorses the assessment of the Executive Director that there is a need for a strategy document and recommends that such a document be prepared to provide for a mechanism to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to discharge its policy guidance and coordination mandate within the United Nations system;

3. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its regular session in 1997 the draft strategy document, to become operational in 1998.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/14. Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/9 of 21 May 1993 on the 1991 and 1992 reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination,[22]

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group,[23]

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[20] UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.1.

[21] UNEP/GC.18/36 and Corr.1.

[22] UNEP/GC.17/11 and UNEP/GC.17/12.

[23] UNEP/GC.18/36/Add.1 and Corr.1.

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1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Welcomes the establishment of the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group as a flexible consultative and advisory body, meeting as and when required, to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to discharge effectively its coordination mandate;

3. Decides that the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group should focus on assisting the Executive Director in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in addressing the major challenges, as set out in the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997;

4. Stresses that, in determining the terms of reference and future activities of the Group, full account should be taken of the role, responsibilities and work of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development;

5. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its regular session in 1997 on the terms of reference, progress made in the work of the Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group and proposed future activities.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/15. Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 14/3 of 18 June 1987, in which it requested the Executive Director to continue to increase cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), inter alia, in the four areas identified by the seventh joint meeting of the Executive Director of the Programme and the Bureau of its Governing Council with the Executive Director of the Centre and the Bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements,[24]

Recalling also its decisions 16/21 of 31 May 1991 and 17/10 of 21 May 1993 on cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985 on cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme,

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[24] See UNEP/GC.13/6, para. 18.

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),[25]

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the increased cooperation between the organizations;

2. Notes that the problem of the adequate treatment and management of urban waste water is an issue on which the United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) can work jointly in a fruitful manner;

3. Requests the Executive Director in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to report on the extent of the progress made in the implementation of the Sustainable Cities Programme;

4. Requests the Executive Director to continue her efforts to intensify such cooperation, particularly in relation to the Sustainable Cities Programme and associated areas included in the programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/16. Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of major international events

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 47/120 A of 18 December 1992, entitled "An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters", and 47/120 B of 20 September 1993, entitled "An Agenda for Peace",

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 49/126 of 19 December 1994 on an Agenda for Development,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994, in which the General Assembly endorsed the Declaration of Barbados, and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[26]

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[25] UNEP/GC.18/29 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

[26] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.8 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

Finally recalling General Assembly resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, in which the General Assembly endorsed the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994,[27]

Mindful that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982[28] entered into force on 16 November 1994,

Bearing in mind the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, which was held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of major international events,[29]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Endorses the follow-up proposals of the Executive Director as contained in her report.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/17. Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 10/1, section I, of 31 May 1982,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme,[30]

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[27] A/CONF.171/13 and Add.1, chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[28] Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[29] UNEP/GC.18/26.

[30] UNEP/GC.18/28.

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director and the actions indicated therein;

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to present to future sessions of the Council her report on issues arising from General Assembly resolutions as an information document.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/18. Estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993, by paragraph 4 of which it requested the Executive Director to present to the Council at its eighteenth session her estimates of the costs for the Programme fully to implement those parts of Agenda 21[1] specifically recommended for the United Nations Environment Programme's attention,

Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention[31] and requests the Executive Director to present broad-based estimates to the Council at its nineteenth session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/19. Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 16/9 of 31 May 1991, in which the Council established, on an experimental basis, the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance to assess and respond to man-made environmental emergencies, acting in cooperation and in coordination with other United Nations agencies,

Recalling also its decision 17/26 of 21 May 1993, in which the Council decided to extend the experimental stage of the Centre for a further twelve months, during which the Centre should restructure its activities to focus its capacities to address the mandate set out in paragraphs 4 (a) to 4 (d) of that decision,

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[31] UNEP/GC.18/30.

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Having considered the report of the Executive Director on improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies,[32]

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs in successfully negotiating institutional and administrative arrangements for the establishment of a Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Department of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit in the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance international capacity to respond to environmental emergencies,

Also noting the decision taken by the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its forty-fifth meeting, held on 8 June 1994, to accept the Executive Director's proposal for the Joint Unit and to request the Executive Director to implement her proposals for twelve months and refer the question back to the Council at its eighteenth session,[33]

Noting further the establishment of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies which will, inter alia, review the work of the Joint Unit and advise the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator,

Recognizing that more time is required for the Joint Unit to develop its activities and services in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies;

2. Welcomes the establishment of the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Department of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit;

3. Invites Governments and relevant United Nations agencies, bodies and programmes to cooperate with the Joint Unit in its efforts to provide assistance to countries, in particular developing countries, facing environmental emergencies;

4. Requests the Executive Director to allocate the necessary resources for the biennium 1996-1997 for the administration and operation of the Joint Unit with strict regard to economy;

5. Urges Governments in a position to do so to provide additional resources for the operation of the Joint Unit;

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[32] UNEP/GC.18/2.

[33] UNEP/CPR.46/2/Rev.1, annex II.

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6. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a detailed progress report on the activities of the Joint Unit for an in-depth review of its activities, its resources and structure, including the involvement and contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the appropriateness of the Joint Unit's location, by Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/20. *Climate*

A. *The Climate Agenda*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/24 C of 21 May 1993 on the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme,

Having considered the Executive Director's report on the Climate Agenda -- international climate-related programmes,[34]

Noting the availability of the Climate Agenda: A Proposal for an Integrating Framework for International Climate-related Programmes,[35] which encompasses all the climate-related activities of international organizations and which has been prepared jointly by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Council of Scientific Unions, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and the World Meteorological Organization,

Noting also that the Agenda is focused upon the needs of Governments and is designed to ensure maximum synergy,

Recognizing the need to support the requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[36] the implementation of Agenda 21[1] and the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Recognizing also that the overall aims and priority areas developed along the four thrusts identified by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme will only be attained through the participation of all

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[34] UNEP/GC.18/17 and Corr.1.

[35] *Ibid*, annex.

[36] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

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States, which requires capacity-building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, realized through training and development, improved institutional arrangements and technology transfer,

Aware of the concerns of the Executive Committee of the World Meteorological Organization, expressed at its forty-sixth session, in June 1994,

1. Endorses the proposal that the United Nations Environment Programme be responsible for coordinating international activities under thrust 3 of the Climate Agenda, "Studies of climate impact assessments and response strategies to reduce vulnerabilities";

2. Urges the relevant international organizations to align their climate-related activities according to the priorities of the Agenda and to implement these activities, within available resources, and to establish adequate reporting and coordinating mechanisms for the World Climate Programme towards achievement of the aims of the Agenda;

3. Requests Governments to consider the need:

(a) To undertake those parts of the programmes for which they have the required expertise and capacity;

(b) To strengthen or establish national climate programmes required by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme;

(c) To cooperate in building the scientific and technical capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to enable their full participation in the Agenda;

(d) To provide a modest amount of additional resources to international organizations for the targeted purpose of coordinating the implementation of the Climate Agenda and for the overall management of the programmes, through the inter-agency Coordinating Committee for the World Climate Programme, and for the management of the individual thrusts.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

B. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/24 A of 21 May 1993 on the report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Having considered the report of the Executive Director on progress of work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,[37]

Noting with satisfaction the outcome of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Berlin from 28 March to 7 April 1995,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Requests the Executive Director, jointly with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, to continue the arrangements to support the Panel and to ensure the participation of specialists with appropriate expertise in its activities;

3. Requests the Panel to continue to update the assessments of available information on the science, impacts, response options and the technical aspects of the socio-economics of climate change and related methodologies for use and application by States parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[36] and other interested entities, taking into account in its assessments the needs arising from the special circumstances of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

4. Urges Governments to continue to support the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and to contribute to the trust fund for the Panel;

5. Further requests the Panel to report, through its Chairman, to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the progress of its activities.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/21. Joint International Atomic Energy Agency, International Maritime Maritime Organization, United Nations Environment Programme Working Group on the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/13 of 21 May 1993 on carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea,

Recalling also resolution A.748 (18), on the Code for the Safe Carriage of Irradiated Nuclear Fuel, Plutonium and High-level Radioactive Wastes in Flasks on Board Ships (INF Code), adopted by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization at its eighteenth session, held from 25 October to 5 November 1993,

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[37] UNEP/GC.18/12.

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Having considered the report of the Executive Director on developments resulting from the work of the Joint International Atomic Energy Agency/International Maritime Organization/United Nations Environment Programme Working Group on the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea,[38]

Takes note of the report of the Executive Director and requests that the United Nations Environment Programme continue its collaboration with the relevant organizations in terms of its experience and expertise and report on progress in this regard to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/22. International environmental technology centres

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/21 of 21 May 1993 on international environmental technology centres,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on international environmental technology centres,[39]

Recalling also its decision 18/40 of 26 May 1995, in which the Council adopted the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director, including the progress report on the International Environmental Technology Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme;

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[38] UNEP/GC.18/35.

[39] UNEP/GC.18/15.

2. Requests the Executive Director to make proposals on the Programme's own role and its partnership role in the context of international environmental technology centres, and on modalities for financing endogenous capacity-building of scientific and technological centres, in particular of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/23. Cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level, and international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts of exports

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/17 of 21 May 1993, on transfer of environmentally sound technology, and paragraph 4 of its decision 17/18, on environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, of 21 May 1993,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level, and development of international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts that exporters of a technology could feasibly provide to importers,[40]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Notes with appreciation the progress made in promoting cleaner and safer industrial production, including processes and products, through the awareness and prevention for emergencies at local level, cleaner production, and environmental technology assessment programmes and the role the Programme has played in disseminating these activities and in supporting national and regional initiatives, particularly in developing countries;

3. Notes also with appreciation the initiatives of Governments, United Nations and intergovernmental organizations, industry and business associations, and non-governmental organizations in supporting programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme in this field;

4. Expresses concern that environmentally unfriendly technologies continue to remain in use;

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[40] UNEP/GC.18/5.

5. Calls upon Governments to continue to give these programmes a high priority in their development policies and programmes, to support the efforts needed to promote them, as well as to provide and/or channel the technical and financial support conducive to these initiatives, particularly amongst small and medium-scale enterprises;

6. Calls upon United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and donor countries to continue to support these initiatives at the national and regional levels;

7. Calls upon national, regional and international funding agencies and banks to recognize the financial benefits of these programmes and to take the necessary steps to include them in their financing programmes;

8. Calls upon the Executive Director to continue to support Governments and industry in developing cleaner production demonstration projects, particularly in developing countries, countries with economies in transition, and small and medium-scale enterprises, and to continue to support and monitor the activities of the National Cleaner Production Centres;

9. Requests the Executive Director to proceed to develop draft international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts that technology exporters or suppliers should provide to technology importers or users and to develop initial mechanisms of verification;

10. Also requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on progress made in implementation of the present decision.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/24. Action for countries with economies in transition

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/27 of 21 May 1993 on action for countries with economies in transition,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 49/106 of 19 December 1994 on integration of the economies in transition into the world economy,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on implementation of Governing Council decision 17/27,[41]

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[41] UNEP/GC.18/19 and Corr.1.

1. Takes note of the progress achieved so far in assisting the countries with economies in transition with their environmental problems within the framework of the "Environment for Europe" process;

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue these efforts, including to develop the survey on the environmental activities and priorities in the European region into a database as a tool for policy- and priority-setting in the region.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/25. International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

Noting with appreciation the quality and usefulness of the Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of Environment, which is published and distributed by the United Nations Environment Programme biennially,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment;[42]

2. Requests the Executive Director to continue regular publication of the Register and invites her to consider the possibility of updating and disseminating it more frequently;

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit her report, on its behalf, together with any comments made by delegations thereon, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX);

4. Calls on States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify or accede to those conventions and protocols in the field of the environment to which they are eligible to become parties.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

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[42] UNEP/GC.18/23 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

18/26. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1993-1994

The Governing Council,

Recalling, in particular, General Assembly resolutions 35/73 of 5 December 1980 and 39/168 B of 17 December 1984, in which the Assembly requested the Governing Council to report, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,[43]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994 on elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1993-1994,[44]

1. *Expresses its support* for ongoing efforts by the United Nations Environment Programme to support the development of an updated assessment methodology for drylands and desertification, including the development of appropriate indicators, based on improved national approaches involving communities, as well as its efforts in increasing awareness of desertification and in disseminating targeted information materials to a range of media;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue promoting cooperation and coordination of worldwide efforts to combat desertification and intensifying research and development in collaboration with leading world scientific institutions and centres of excellence on desertification and land degradation and drought issues, particularly on the social and economic aspects of these problems;

3. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to submit, on behalf of the Council, her report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in 1993 and 1994, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to participate actively in assisting Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in

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[43] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Desertification, Nairobi, 29 August - 9 September 1977* (A/CONF.74/30), part one, chap. I.

[44] UNEP/GC.18/3 and Corr.1.

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Africa[45] adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994 and resolution 5/1 concerning urgent action for Africa adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Convention[46] and to support the interim secretariat of the Convention;

5. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme Partnership to Combat Desertification signed on 26 April 1995;

(b) To contribute to the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 on urgent action for Africa on the basis of the resources provided for under programme activities to implement chapter 12 of Agenda 21 in the developing countries, in particular in Africa, in close collaboration with the interim secretariat of the Convention;

(c) To invite other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, financial institutions, funds and other interested parties to join the partnership and contribute to local, national, subregional and regional efforts of developing countries to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;

6. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the activities undertaken within the framework of the present decision with a view to implementing the Convention to Combat Desertification.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/27. Earthwatch

A. Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/192 of 21 December 1993,

Taking note of the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development on this issue,

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[45] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

[46] See A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III.

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment,[47] the report of the Secretary-General on chapter 40 of Agenda 21: information for decision-making and Earthwatch,[48] based on material assembled in partnership by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the United Nations Environment Programme as task managers for chapter 40 and for Earthwatch, respectively, and the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council on the United Nations system-wide Earthwatch,[49]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment, and the associated information documents;

2. Urges all partner agencies and programmes to cooperate in implementing the system-wide Earthwatch;

3. Endorses the recommendations of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in its report to the Governing Council regarding the development of approaches to the linking of socio-economic and environmental assessment and reporting by the United Nations Environment Programme and the system-wide Earthwatch;

4. Endorses the refocused strategy of the Programme to undertake, at the request of Governments or their representative bodies, policy-relevant assessment and reporting of environment and development issues of international significance through cooperating networks of appropriate national and regional agencies, organizations or institutions, and to promote the development of data and information management capacity in those bodies situated in developing countries as necessary and appropriate to ensure their full participation;

5. Requests the Executive Director to continue providing assistance, within available resources, to developing countries to build capacity to enable them to use and benefit from the data and information acquired through the Earthwatch programme;

6. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit her report and the present decision, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

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[47] UNEP/GC.18/4 and Corr.1.

[48] E/CN.17/1995/18.

[49] UNEP/GC.18/33, annex.

B. Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/11 of 21 May 1993,

Having considered the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council at its eighteenth session[46] and the report of the Executive Director on Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment,[47]

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee for its recommendations as an input into the Council's deliberations on the question of system-wide Earthwatch;

2. *Requests* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to continue to report to the Council at its regular sessions.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

C. New state-of-the-environment report

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which the Assembly, *inter alia*, conferred the following functions upon the United Nations Environment Programme: to keep under review the world environmental situation; to coordinate, review and assess environmental programmes within the United Nations system; and to finance, wholly or partly, the costs of new environmental initiatives undertaken within the United Nations system,

Recalling also its decision 17/6 of 21 May 1993 on state-of-the-environment reports,

Further recalling the reconfirmation of the Programme's mandate by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Noting the call of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for even greater efforts to coordinate environment and development activities in the United Nations system,

Noting with appreciation previous reports of the Executive Director on the state of the environment,

Stressing the overall objective of the integration of environment and development issues and actions, at the national, regional and international levels, including within the United Nations system,

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Deeply concerned that consensus cannot be reached on several essential issues in the field of environment and development within the United Nations system, which delays implementation of the principles and recommendations of Agenda 21,[1]

1. Requests the Executive Director to prepare a new, comprehensive report on the state of the world environment, which will consist of the following three parts:

(a) The present state of the global environment;

(b) The state of the global environment in the year 2015;

(c) The response: findings, conclusions and recommendations;

2. Recommends the inclusion in parts (a) and (b) of the report all essential problems of and threats to the environment, inter alia, the environmental status of the main components of the global ecosystem (waters, forests, soils and farming lands, ozone layer, etc.), basic trends in environmental change (for example, climate change, coastal and marine degradation, desertification, deforestation and habitat loss, pollution, soil degradation, ozone depletion, etc.); and the global effects of expected development growth, population increase and main trends in consumption, production and urbanization patterns (for example, energy consumption, transportation and sanitation problems, waste disposal, land reclamation and destruction, etc.);

3. Also recommends the inclusion in part (b) of the report of the expected impact of population increase, consumption and production patterns and economic development on the environment;

4. Further recommends the inclusion in part (c) of the report recommended measures and actions that could effectively reverse unwelcome trends and challenge principal threats to the environment and also specific institutional and legal measures for the implementation of proposed actions;

5. Requests that preparation of the report, which shall be undertaken within existing resources, be based primarily on the existing data collected and prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme, in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank and other United Nations agencies and bodies, and on the results of research and studies by public and private scientific and statistical institutions engaged in formulation of environmental and development assessments and forecasts;

6. Also requests the Executive Director to consult periodically with the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the preparation of the report;

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7. Further requests the Executive Director to submit a first report for the consideration of the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/28. Environmental indicators

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/22 of 21 May 1993 on environmental indicators,

Recalling also the recent approval of a programme of work on indicators for sustainable development by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, and its call for organizations of the United Nations system to contribute to its implementation,

1. Takes note of the Executive Director's progress report, including a plan of action on the development and use of environmental indicators;[50]

2. Endorses the plan of action of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental and sustainable development indicators to be carried out in collaboration with other agencies and parties.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/29. Application of environmental norms by military establishments

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/5 of 21 May 1993, on application of environmental norms by military establishments,

1. Takes note of the Executive Director's report on the application of environmental norms by military establishments;[51]

2. Takes note also of the recommendation by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session, in May 1994, inviting the United Nations Environment Programme to consider the feasibility of arranging regional meetings, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions and regional organizations, on the implementation of Governing Council

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[50] UNEP/GC.18/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

[51] UNEP/GC.18/6 and Add.1.

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decision 17/5 and on how national environmental plans for military establishments relating to hazardous waste management can be designed and implemented;[52]

3. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to arrange, within available resources, regional meetings, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions and regional organizations, for the implementation of Governing Council decision 17/5;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session on the outcome of such regional meetings.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/30. Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of the decisions concerning forest issues adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session

The Governing Council,

Having considered the decisions of the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, whereby further actions are required to improve the conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests,

Noting with satisfaction the establishment, under the aegis of the Commission, of an Open-ended Intergovernmental Panel on Forests,

Noting further that the Panel and its secretariat should draw particularly on the resources and technical expertise of relevant organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the International Tropical Timber Organization, as well as the secretariats of the relevant conventions,

Recognizing the experience that the United Nations Environment Programme has accumulated in helping nations to move forward on contentious environmental issues and arrive at consensus,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to place this experience and the Programme's expertise in environmental issues related to forests at the disposal of the Panel, and to further develop and strengthen this expertise through those relevant elements of the approved work programme of the United Nations Environment Programme in order to contribute effectively to the work of the Panel;

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[52] E/1994/33/Rev.1-E/CN.17/1994/20/Rev.1, chap. I, paras. 186 and 187.

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to give full support to the implementation of the work programme of the Panel and the functioning of its secretariat.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/31. *Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities*

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/20 of 21 May 1993, instituting a programme of meetings leading to a global intergovernmental conference for the purpose of adopting a programme of action to protect the marine environment from degradation by land-based activities,

Welcoming the progress made at the Preliminary Meeting of Experts to Assess the Effectiveness of Regional Seas Agreements, held in Nairobi from 6 to 10 December 1993,[53] the Meeting of Government-designated Experts Focusing on the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment against Land-based Sources of Pollution, held in Montreal from 6 to 10 June 1994,[54] and the Meeting of Government-designated Experts to Review and Revise a Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, held in Reykjavik from 6 to 10 March 1995,[55]

Having noted the draft Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities[56] which will be submitted to the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to be held in Washington, D.C., from 23 October to 3 November 1995,

Having noted also recent developments which are important in relation to the protection of the seas, such as the entry into force on 16 November 1994 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[28] the developments for enhancing the protection of the sea from the dumping of waste within the

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[53] See the report of Preliminary Meeting of Experts to Assess the Effectiveness of Regional Seas Agreements (UNEP/LBS/WG.1/1/3).

[54] See the report of the Meeting of Government-designated Experts Focusing on the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment against Land-based Sources of Pollution (UNEP/MG/IG/1/5).

[55] See the report of the Meeting of Government-designated Experts to Review and Revise a Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/ICL/IG/1/L.6).

[56] UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/3.

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framework of the 1972 London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter,[57] the strengthening at the regional level of legal instruments for the protection of the marine environment against degradation from land-based activities, in particular within the framework of the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, the requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[36] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[58] and the ongoing implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,[59] the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa and other relevant conventions on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal, with a view, _inter alia_, to preventing and regulating all risks and potential damage to the marine environment,

Recognizing that inadequate disposal of urban waste-water is one of the main problems affecting communities and ecosystems, stressing its implications for sustainable development in the developing world, including, _inter alia_, human health,.infant mortality, and agricultural uses;

Noting that the use of environmentally sound technologies and facilities as well as available resources for ensuring adequate waste-water treatment in the developing world is at present limited and that therefore there is an urgent need to address the adverse socio-economic and health effects of waste-water;

1. _Calls on_ all States, including those participating in regional conventions and programme for the protection of the marine environment, the regional seas programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the relevant international and non-governmental organizations, to consider the draft Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and to communicate any proposals for amendment to the Executive Director by 15 August 1995, for submission to the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to be held in Washington, D.C., from 23 October to 3 November 1995. Such suggestions could, in particular, relate to, or be derived from, new or already planned land-based activities in fields such as urban development and planning, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing industry, aquaculture, harbour operations and management of river systems, and aim at ways and means by which the Programme

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[57] United Nations, _Treaty Series_, vol. 1064, No. 15749.

[58] UNEP/Bio.Div/N7-INC.5/4.

[59] UNEP/WG.190/4.

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of Action could contribute to the development of land-based activities in a sustainable manner and support their implementation in accordance with nationally or regionally agreed environmental planning;

2. Requests the Executive Director to produce the additional information on future funding requirements and opportunities, and on clearing-house activities, as was requested by the meeting of Government-designated experts in Reykjavik, and assemble, analyse and process any proposals communicated by States or relevant organizations, in particular those resulting from further regional consultations, and distribute this information in due time before the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference in Washington, D.C.;

3. Urges Governments to contribute additional resources to support the participation of developing countries in the Intergovernmental Conference in 1995, as well as any necessary intersessional preparatory activities;

4. Requests the Executive Director to take note of the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea Conference on Funding and Institutional Issues for the Washington Action Programme on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, due to take place in Rio de Janeiro in June 1995, and to relay any recommendations, in particular those that address the various needs of States and that may facilitate the adoption and implementation of the Global Programme of Action, in due time for information to the Intergovernmental Conference in Washington, D.C.;

5. Calls on States participating in the Intergovernmental Conference in Washington to consider how, within the Global Programme of Action, appropriate attention could be given to support action at national and regional level on urban waste-water management and treatment and persistent organic pollutants as was requested by the Reykjavik meeting of Government-designated experts, in accordance with available resources and capacities and taking into account the relevant principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[2] and the priorities of Agenda 21[3];

6. Requests the Executive Director to initiate action to ensure appropriate linkages between the elements of the draft Global Programme of Action on persistent organic pollutants and on management and treatment of urban sewage and similar action being developed in other forums. Initial actions related to persistent organic pollutants are contained in Governing Council decision 18/32 of 25 May 1995;

7. Requests the Executive Director:

(a) To further, in cooperation with other appropriate agencies, projects aimed at the development of indigenous and basic systems for waste-water management, with focus on community-based systems and, where possible, stimulate water recycling;

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(b) To provide for international know-how to assist developing countries in addressing in an efficient and effective manner the problem of adequate disposal and recycling of urban waste-water;

(c) To support activities undertaken by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the development of operating manuals for shallow sewerage systems, and other relevant human settlement waste-water treatment and management approaches;

8. Calls on States in a position to do so, and multilateral financing institutions, to cooperate actively in new and existing regional cooperation frameworks and to support States participants in such regional frameworks, at their request, to implement the provisions of the Global Programme of Action at the appropriate national, regional and international level and to enhance the capacity to prevent degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities;

9. Requests the Executive Director to make arrangements, in the period up to the nineteenth session of the Governing Council, to promote and facilitate the implementation of the outcome of the Washington Intergovernmental Conference, in cooperation with all relevant intergovernmental organizations;

10. Requests the Executive Director to ensure immediate and high priority for these activities and to programme adequate funds and staff to facilitate implementation within the available programme resources for the relevant year for activity 7.1.4.(a);

11. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the outcome of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/32. Persistent organic pollutants

The Governing Council,

Aware that persistent organic pollutants pose major and increasing threats to human health and the environment,

Noting chapter 17 (Protection of the oceans) of Agenda 21[1] which identifies reduction and elimination of emissions and discharges of organohalogens and other persistent organic pollutants as priority action, as well as chapter 19 (Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals) and other relevant conventions, and the precautionary approach as stated in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1]

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Recognizing the progress on a programme of action to protect the marine environment from degradation by land-based activities, including persistent organic pollutants, in the preparation for the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, to be held in Washington, D.C., from 23 October to 3 November 1995,

Noting ongoing regional cooperation to assess the risks associated with persistent organic pollutants, as well as to develop strategies and action to deal with these substances,

Aware that many persistent organic pollutants are transported over long distances globally by air and sea and therefore exist in measurable and increasing concentrations far from the original site of origin,

Mindful of the urgent need to improve scientific understanding of persistent organic pollutants, their sources, transport, and pathways as well as their effects on human health, environment and their socio-economic effects as a basis for development and adoption of effective and realistic response strategies, policies, and measures at the national, regional and global levels,

1. _Invites_ the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, working with the International Programme on Chemical Safety, and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, with the assistance of an appropriate ad hoc working group, to initiate an expeditious assessment process, initially beginning with the short-list of persistent organic pollutants that is currently being discussed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in the context of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, adopted in Geneva on 13 November 1979.[60] This process should:

(a) Consolidate existing information available from the International Programme on Chemical Safety, the Economic Commission for Europe, and other relevant sources on the chemistry and toxicology of the substances concerned (particularly the impact on human, plant, and animal health);

(b) Analyse the relevant transport pathways and the origin, transport, and the deposition of these substances on a global scale;

(c) Examine the sources, benefits, risks and other considerations relevant to production and use;

(d) Evaluate the availability, including costs and effectiveness, of preferable substitutes, where applicable;

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[60] These persistent organic pollutants are: PCBs, dioxins and furans, aldrin, dieldrin, DDT, endrin, chlordane, hexaclorobenzene, mirex, toxaphene, and heptachlor.

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(e) Assess realistic response strategies, policies and mechanisms for reducing and/or eliminating emissions, discharges and losses of persistent organic pollutants.

In undertaking these tasks, the circumstances of developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be taken into account;

2. *Invites*, based on the results of this process and the outcome of the Washington Conference, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety to develop recommendations and information on international action, including such information as would be needed for a possible decision regarding an appropriate international legal mechanism on persistent organic pollutants, to be considered by the Governing Council and the World Health Assembly no later than in 1997;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to support the work of this process as necessary;

4. *Calls on* States, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, including regional economic organizations, and other relevant organizations to participate actively and provide contributions both for the assessment process and for the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/33. *International coral reef initiative*

The Governing Council,

Noting that many of the world's coral reefs are severely degraded or destroyed due to human activities,

Recalling that chapter 17 of Agenda 21[1] identifies coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds as marine ecosystems of high biological diversity and production and recommends that they be accorded high priority for identification and protection,

Noting the report of the United Nations Environment Programme-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission-Association of South Pacific Environmental Institutions-World Conservation Union Global Task Team on the Implications of Climate Change on Coral Reefs,[61]

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[61] C.R. Wilkinson and R.W. Buddemeier, *Global Climate Change and Coral Reefs: Implications for People and Reefs. Report of the UNEP-IOC-ASPEI-IUCN Global Task Team on the Implications of Climate Change on Coral Reefs* (IUCN, Gland, Switzerland, 1994).

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Also noting that coral reefs have been designated as the coastal system chosen as the first to be developed within the coastal zone module of the Global Ocean Observing System,

Recognizing the initiative of Australia, France, Jamaica, Japan, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States to sponsor a workshop to promote an international coral reef initiative, to be held in the Philippines from 29 May to 2 June 1995,

Noting that the initiative builds upon and reflects the processes established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will address chapter 17 of Agenda 21 in 1996, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity,[58] which will address marine biological diversity in 1995, the 1995 intergovernmental meetings on protection of the marine environment from land-based activities, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[36] the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[28] and other relevant international programmes,

1. Welcomes the international coral reef initiative, which is a partnership of Governments, international organizations (including lending institutions), and non-governmental organizations to address capacity-building, research and monitoring and sustainable management and use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems;

2. Supports the establishment of a global coral reef monitoring network, as proposed as part of the coastal zone and shelf module of the Global Ozone Observing System by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Conservation Union, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the World Meteorological Organization and International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, within existing resources, to monitor the status of reefs and enhance their management;

3. Encourages the regional programmes of United Nations Environment Programme, particularly the regional seas programmes, to incorporate recommendations of the coral reef initiative workshop, as appropriate, into relevant United Nations Environment Programme activities and, whenever appropriate, to translate them into concrete supporting measures on protection and conservation;

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4. Encourages continued participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the international coral reef initiative, particularly the international coral reef initiative planning committee, regional meetings, and forthcoming session at the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1996.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/34. Support from the United Nations Environment Programme for small island developing States and implementation of the Programme of Action of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The Governing Council,

Recalling chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[1] which recognized the particular vulnerabilities, both ecological and economic, of small island developing States and the special challenges they face in planning for and implementing sustainable development,

Noting the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados from 26 April to 6 May 1994,[62] in particular its Programme of Action,[63] which called for action at the international, regional and national levels,

Noting that at its fourth session, the Commission for Sustainable Development will consider chapter 17 of Agenda 21, including action taken to implement the Barbados Programme of Action,

1. Welcomes the action taken to date by the Executive Director in response to the Barbados Conference, including the establishment of a focal point and a task force within the United Nations Environment Programme to coordinate the Programme's activities relevant to the Barbados Programme of Action;

2. Urges the Executive Director to ensure that, in implementing the programme of work agreed by the Governing Council at its eighteenth session, appropriate attention is given to the needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States;

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[62] See Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Development States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April - 6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.8 and corrigendum).

[63] Ibid, chap.I, resolution I, annex II.

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3. Further urges the Executive Director, through the effective use and involvement of the task force in both programme activities and policy development, to encourage an integrated approach within the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing the issues of relevance to small island developing States.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/35. Lead in gasoline

The Governing Council,

Recalling the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session, by which the Commission noted severe health impacts of human exposure to lead, endorsed the ongoing work on that issue in several international forums, and encouraged further efforts to reduce human exposure to lead,[64]

Noting with approval the efforts under way among countries to reduce exposures associated with the use of lead, in particular commitments made by a number of countries to develop action plans to phase out or reduce the use of lead in gasoline,

Noting also that, in order to maximize effectiveness and benefit to the environment, the elimination of lead in gasoline should be accompanied by the use of catalytic converters,

Further noting the decision adopted on 28 April 1995 by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, calling upon all countries to consider and all interested countries to develop action plans with a view to phasing out or reducing the use of lead in gasoline, and inviting them to inform the Commission of their decision and progress as appropriate at its fourth session,

Noting also that the Commission in its decision called upon donor countries and financial institutions to assist developing countries in the financing and transfer of relevant technologies, in accordance with chapters 33 and 34 of Agenda 21,[1]

1. Calls upon Governments to give full consideration to the costs and benefits of phasing out lead in gasoline, including risks associated with increased aromatic components in the absence of catalytic converters;

2. Urges countries that have already begun to phase out the use of lead in gasoline, as well as appropriate international organizations and international financial institutions, to assist other countries in their

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[64] E/1994/33/Rev.1-E/CN.17/1994/20/Rev.1, chap.I, para. 169.

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efforts to achieve such a phase-out, in accordance with the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, and to promote the transfer of technology towards the overall reduction of vehicular emissions;

3. Invites the Executive Director to participate in these efforts as appropriate, within available resources and without duplication of effort, as part of her broader efforts to promote more effective approaches to emissions control.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/36. Biological diversity

A. Support to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Governing Council,

Noting General Assembly resolution 49/117 of 19 December 1994 on the Convention on Biological Diversity,[58]

Noting decision 1/4 adopted by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nassau from 28 November to 9 December 1994, on the selection of a competent international organization to carry out the functions of the Secretariat of the Convention,[65]

Welcomes the designation of the United Nations Environment Programme to carry out the functions of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and notes that it ensures the latter's autonomy to discharge the functions referred to in article 24 of the Convention.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

B. Biosafety

The Governing Council,

Recalling the objectives of chapter 16 of Agenda 21[1] on the promotion of environmentally sound management of biotechnology,

Further recalling the provisions of article 19 of the Convention on Biological Diversity[58] on handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits, in particular paragraph 3, calling on Parties to "consider the need

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[65] See the report of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/1/7), annex II.

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for and modalities of a protocol setting out appropriate procedures, including, in particular, advance informed agreement, in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of any living modified organism resulting from biotechnology that may have adverse effect on the consideration and sustainable use of biological diversity",

Noting the decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its first meeting, held in Nassau from 28 November to 9 December 1994, to consider the need for and modalities of a protocol on the safe handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology that have adverse effects on biodiversity, and other international work on biosafety,[66]

Affirming the desirability of the United Nations Environment Programme contributing to international efforts on biosafety while avoiding duplication with other international activities currently being undertaken by other organizations, in particular the work initiated by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

1. *Welcomes* the United Nations Environment Programme initiative to hold consultations on International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology and Related Capacity-Building Requirements;

2. *Notes* with appreciation that three regional expert consultations on International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology and Related Capacity-Building Requirements have so far been held and that further regional consultations are planned;

3. *Supports*, taking into account any relevant decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its second meeting, the holding of a global expert consultation on International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology and Related Capacity-Building Requirements at a time after the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

4. *Endorses and supports* United Nations Environment Programme sponsorship of regional consultations on International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology and Related Capacity-Building Requirements, noting the need for such a programme to avoid prejudging the consideration, initiated by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the need for and the modalities of a protocol on biosafety;

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[66] *Ibid*, decision I/9, para. 3.

5. Requests the Executive Director to consult closely with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the implementation of the present decision and report on progress to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

18/37. Environmental training

A. Support for the environmental training networks

The Governing Council,

Conscious of the need to strengthen the environmental training network which has played a major role in consolidating staff training in the Latin American and Caribbean region,

Recalling paragraph 34.15 of Agenda 21,[1] adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development,

Urges the Executive Director to strengthen the environmental training networks in each region, with a view to achieving the implementation of environmental education and training.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

B. Integrated environmental management training

The Governing Council,

Recalling that by decision 17/32 of 21 May 1995, 18 per cent of the Environment Fund was to be reserved for capacity-building to respond to the worldwide need for human resources that are motivated, informed, educated and trained in environmental matters,

Recalling also that in the follow-up to decision 17/32, the 1994-1995 programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme had set up a subprogramme on integrated environmental management training in order to strengthen the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to manage natural resources and the environment on a more integrated and sustainable basis,

Having considered the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997,[67]

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[67] UNEP/GC.18/9.

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Acknowledging the efforts furnished by several Governments and individual universities to develop, with the United Nations Environment Programme, a series of training courses in integrated ecosystems management and environmental management for the benefit of qualified government officials and representatives of the business sector of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Taking into account that the backlog of potential trainees is far from exhausted and that the result of such training courses is continuous improvement in the level of environmental management where it is most needed,

Requests the Executive Director to ensure that such courses, as well as courses in collaboration with other bilateral and multilateral organizations, continue to be organized and that such a subprogramme is duly reflected in the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/38. Regional representation

A. Role and function of the regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/28 of 21 May 1993, in which it requested the Executive Director to review the role and function of regional representation and inform the Council at its eighteenth session about the regional representation, regional offices and liaison offices of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting paragraph 38.23 of Agenda 21,[1] in which the United Nations Environment Programme is called upon to strengthen its regional offices without weakening its headquarters,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on review of the role and function of the regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme, including a plan of action to enhance the process of strengthening the regional and liaison offices,[68]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Reaffirms that the United Nations Environment Programme needs a strong regional presence to implement its mandate;

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[68] UNEP/GC.18/31.

3. Endorses the measures that the Executive Director is implementing to strengthen the regional office system;

4. Requests the Executive Director to keep under review the appropriate configuration of regional offices, the relationship between regional and outposted offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and future development of subregional offices as circumstances warrant and resources become available;

5. Stresses the need for cooperation and close coordination between the regional offices and the concerned regional economic commissions, and urges the Executive Director to consider co-locating, wherever possible and necessary, the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme in the same venues as the regional economic commissions.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

B. Decentralization and strengthening of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Being convinced that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, began a process that would help to achieve sustainable development in all countries of the world,

Considering that paragraph 38.23 of Agenda 21[1] establishes that the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme should be strengthened without weakening its headquarters in Nairobi, and recognizing the overall efficiency of the operations of the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi and particularly the cost and efficiency advantages,

Recalling Governing Council decisions SS.II/1 of 3 August 1990 and 16/1 of 31 May 1991,

Being also convinced of the need to adapt the existing structures connected with regional environmental cooperation to the challenges presented by the process begun at Rio de Janeiro,

Bearing in mind the decisions of the regional meetings of ministers of the environment,

Being concerned at the considerable reduction in the budget proposed for the biennium 1996-1997, which could affect the attainment of the objectives established,

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1. Requests the Executive Director to continue the process of decentralizing the United Nations Environment Programme by strengthening the role and function of its regional offices by granting them greater functional and administrative capacities so as to achieve a greater flexibility in the annual programmes;

2. Agrees that the said process should include the following elements:

(a) The pertinent aspects of Agenda 21 relating to the importance of strengthening the regional role;

(b) Specific aspects of the role, functions and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme that could be strengthened by means of regional activity;

(c) Evaluation of the specific needs of the various regions;

(d) The climate of cooperation with other multilateral and regional organizations;

3. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that adequate transfers of resources are made available to the regional offices whenever it is planned that the integrated programme shall be implemented mainly through the regions;

4. Takes note of the relevant decisions adopted at the regional ministerial meetings;

5. Recommends that at least once a year the Executive Director should include in the agenda of the meetings with the Committee of Permanent Representatives the subject of strengthening the regional offices, in order to review the progress made and to exchange information and experience concerning the implementation of programmes and goals of the regional offices referred to.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

C. Strengthening of regional coordination

Considering that paragraph 38.22 (k) of Agenda 21[1] calls for regional cooperation and support to relevant initiatives and programmes for environmental protection, including a major contributing and coordinating role in the regional mechanisms to be played by the United Nations Environment Programme,

Considering that paragraph 38.23 of Agenda 21 establishes that the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme should be strengthened without weakening its headquarters in Nairobi,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen national environment policies through coordination between countries and their respective Permanent Representatives,

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Recognizing the importance of regional ministerial meetings on environmental matters in determining priorities for the various regions,

Aware of the need to facilitate coordination mechanisms between the countries and their Permanent Representatives,

Calls upon the Executive Director, within available resources:

(a) To encourage the holding of annual regional meetings at the ministerial level in order to evaluate and design relevant policies and strategies to guide the activities of the regional offices;

(b) To hold consultations on an annual basis in Nairobi with the Permanent Representatives and delegations of countries, in order to assess the progress of the programme.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/39. Regional programmes

A. Regional programme support for Africa

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, by which the Assembly endorsed Agenda 21[1] and the emphasis it gave to regional environment and development priority activities as contained in the various regional common positions for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Reaffirming its decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993, endorsing the integrated approach to environment and sustainable development,

Appreciative of the effort made by the Executive Director in the integrated approach contained in the 1996-1997 programme of work and budget,[67]

Also appreciative of the continued inclusion of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment among the activities of the work programme and budget,

Concerned that the key priorities in the proposed programme do not respond adequately to Africa's major environmental concerns as expressed in the African Common Position on Environment and Development submitted to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development by Africa as addressed in the priorities of the new programme of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment,

Believing that Africa's contribution to regional and global sustainability would be minimal if this inadequacy is not addressed,

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1. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that in the implementation of the programme emphasis is placed on the following areas of major concern to Africa, which are included in the 1996-1997 programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme:

(a) Land resources:

(i) Support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[45] adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994, particularly the urgent actions for Africa; and

(ii) Conservation and rehabilitation strategies in conflict areas;

(b) Water resources:

(i) Strengthening African inland water management groups and regional technical cooperation networks;

(ii) Reclamation and rehabilitation of African lakes and wetland areas;

(c) Biological resources: promotion of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity[58] and related programmes in Africa;

(d) Coastal and marine resources:

(i) Updated inventory of coastal and marine resources of four African regional seas programmes;

(ii) Ratified and implemented African regional seas conventions and protocols;

(e) Major groups: support to the African preparations for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(f) Global and regional servicing and support:

(i) Support to the programmes of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and capacity-building of its secretariat;

(ii) Strengthening of the Regional Office for Africa;

(iii) Focus on capacity-building, especially greater support and training for implementing post-Rio national plans, environmental management systems, policies, programmes,

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international environmental conventions, regional agreements, protocols, treaties and conventions, and new national laws/frameworks for environmental protection;

(iv) Public awareness, information and participation programmes, including those aimed at providing tangible opportunities for working with major groups, especially women, youth, and local communities in the implementation of decisions of the Governing Council;

2. Also requests the Executive Director to implement the above activities within available resources;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the implementation of the present decision.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

B. Technical cooperation among African countries for the building and utilization of capacities and for mobilization of resources for sustainable development in Africa

The Governing Council,

Cognizant of the urgent need to promote environmental management and sustainable development in the African region,

Recognizing that African countries need to develop and fully utilize internal capacities and fully mobilize resources available in the region as the driving force in attaining desirable levels of environmental management and sustainable development,

Conscious of the central position that internal capacity-building and utilization and resource mobilization would play in environmental management and sustainable development, especially when supplemented by external capacities, where necessary,

Aware of the successes made in capacity-building and resource mobilization through the technical cooperation among developing countries mechanism and desirous to bring similar benefits closer home to Africa in the field of environmental management and sustainable development,

Convinced of the need for support for technical cooperation among African countries to contribute to the implementation of Agenda 21[1] in the region through capacity-building and utilization measures,

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Considering the position of the Conference of Ministers of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa on the subject of technical cooperation among African countries during its twenty-first session, held in Addis Ababa in May 1995,

Cognizant of Africa's disadvantaged role in the global political economy and hence the need for such initiatives and mechanisms to help lift Africa and place her on the path towards full participation in the global human development endeavour,

1. Urges the Executive Director:

(a) To work closely in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme to increase and focus support for technical cooperation among African countries in the field of environmental management and sustainable development through appropriate capacity-building and utilization measures and mechanisms, and, within available resources, to urge the United Nations Development Programme to explore the possibility of opening a special window for technical cooperation among African countries within the framework of the technical cooperation among developing countries mechanism as a starting point;

(b) To facilitate measures for promoting technical cooperation among African countries and capacity-building and utilization in the field of environmental management and sustainable development for the African region;

(c) To collaborate with the United Nations Development Programme in seeking support for the mobilization of resources from within the United Nations system, bilateral and multilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to facilitate the development and implementation of further measures for technical cooperation among African countries;

2. Further urges:

(a) Other members of the United Nations system, multilateral and bilateral agencies, international non-governmental organizations and the private sector to render concrete support to measures to promote technical cooperation among African countries in the field of environmental management and sustainable development;

(b) African Governments, local non-governmental organizations, universities and foundations and the local private sector also to support technical cooperation among African countries;

3. Requests the Executive Director to urge:

(a) The Economic Commission for Africa to incorporate environmental management and sustainable development into its capacity-building and utilization initiative for Africa;

/...

(b) The Organization of African Unity and the subregional organizations (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Economic Community of West African States, Economic Community of Central African States, Arab Maghreb Union, Southern African Development Community, Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel) to incorporate measures and mechanisms for technical cooperation among African countries and capacity-building and utilization for Africa into the programming of their resource mobilization and policy design strategies;

4. Authorizes the Executive Director:

(a) To request the United Nations Development Programme to carry out a comprehensive study of the feasibility, modalities, approaches, appropriate measures and resource requirements for the successful implementation of technical cooperation among African countries and to collaborate closely with the United Nations Environment Programme on those aspects of the study relating to environmental management and sustainable development;

(b) To request the United Nations Development Programme to present the report of the study to the Economic and Social Council at its 1996 session for policy debate;

(c) To report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on the results of these efforts as they relate to the field of environmental management and sustainable development.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

C. Programmes of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the regional programme for West Asia

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/28 of 21 May 1993 in which it requested the Executive Director, inter alia, to continue her efforts to link the implementation of the regional programmes undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme with other international organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the regional economic commissions, in a coordinated manner,

Recalling also its decision 16/33 of 31 May 1991, in which it requested the Executive Director, inter alia, to encourage ways and means of facilitating the transfer and acquisition of technology by the developing countries in respect of cleaner production and its techniques,

Recalling further Agenda 21[1] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 34 on the transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building, and chapter 38 on international institutional arrangements, as well as its chapter 1, which calls for cooperation and implementation at the regional and subregional levels, Noting the possibilities of improving and activating environmental activities in the Arab region, in general, and in West Asia, in particular, especially in the areas of capacity-building, provision and exchange of information, improving public awareness and education and combating desertification and pollution,

Expressing its appreciation of the results achieved by the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment,

Recognizing the role of the Arab League Liaison Office in Cairo, in support of the cooperation between the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, and the United Nations Environment Programme and its regional offices,

Requests the Executive Director to support, within available resources, the goals and aims of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the Regional Office for West Asia, with particular reference to support for Arab priority project proposals within the framework of Arab programmes for sustainable development approved for implementation by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and Regional Office for West Asia.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

D. North-East Asia Regional Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/28 of 21 May 1993, in which it, inter alia, requested the Executive Director to continue making efforts to link the implementation of the regional programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme in a coordinated manner with other international organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the regional economic commissions,

Recalling also its decision 16/33 of 31 May 1991, in which it, inter alia, called upon the Executive Director to promote the identification of ways and means to facilitate access by and transfer of technology to developing countries in respect of cleaner production methods, techniques and technologies,

Further recalling the Agenda 21 programme of action[1] as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly its chapter 34 (Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building), and chapter 38 (International institutional arrangements), section I, on regional and subregional cooperation and implementation,

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Noting with appreciation the collaborating work of six Governments of the North-East Asian subregion, namely, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation, through senior officials' meetings on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, substantively supported by the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, and supported technically by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank,

Taking into account the deliberations of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its fifty-first session, held from 24 April to 1 May 1995 on, inter alia, the subject of the North-East Asia Regional Environment Programme,

Requests the Executive Director to support fully, within available resources, the aims and objectives of the North-East Asia Regional Environment Programme so as to carry out the catalytic and coordinating role of the United Nations Environment Programme through its strengthened regional office in Thailand and also its International Environmental Technology Centre in Japan, particularly in its work programme of the biennium 1996-1997, inter alia, by:

(a) Technical and financial support to the third meeting on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, scheduled to be held in early 1996 in Mongolia; and

(b) Technical support to the priority project proposals unanimously adopted by the second meeting on environmental cooperation in North-East Asia for implementation.

9th meeting
25 May 1995

E. Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region

The Governing Council,

Noting the provisions of Agenda 21,[1] in particular its chapter 17, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[28] and the international efforts towards a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

Recognizing the importance of these provisions for the large coastal populations in the South Asian Seas region,

Taking into account the needs of the peoples in the region, particularly in the marine and coastal areas of the five maritime States of the region, namely, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka,

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Also noting that the five above-mentioned States have agreed on an Action Plan and have made financial commitments for its implementation,

Calls upon the Executive Director:

(a) To give due attention, within the context of the regional seas programme of the United Nations Environment Programme, to the further development and implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region;[66]

(b) To provide, within available resources, adequate finances and staff time for the implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/40. Proposed programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 38.21 of Agenda 21,[1] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, reconfirming the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and requiring that its Governing Council "continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of environment, taking into account the development perspective",

Recognizing that the Governing Council in its decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993 noted, inter alia, that the programme of United Nations Environment Programme "will have to be further developed in the future in order to incorporate changes required by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development",

Noting also the views and concerns expressed by member States at the eighteenth session of the Governing Council, inter alia, calling upon the Executive Director to make the United Nations Environment Programme more efficient in its management of resources and delivery of programmes,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997;[67]

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[66] See Final Act of the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region, New Delhi, 24 March 1995.

1. Approves the integrated programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 with the provision that the Executive Director shall ensure, in implementing the programme, that all activities, in particular those under subprogrammes 4.1 and 4.2 are carried out in consultation with the countries concerned, especially with developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and in a manner which protects the interests of those countries. To this end, the Executive Director should adopt a balanced approach and take fully into account the concerns expressed:

(a) On the specific focus on trade and macro-economic policies in developing countries, in the activities listed under subprogrammes 4.1.1.2, 4.2.1.4, 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.3 and 4.1.1.4; and

(b) On the need, within subprogramme 4.2.2.1, for the United Nations Environment Programme to focus on helping to mobilize resources to meet the environmental needs of developing countries.

On other programme activities, the United Nations Environment Programme should further give due consideration to the concerns of the Governing Council as expressed by its members at its eighteenth session. In implementing this programme, the United Nations Environment Programme should cooperate with Governments as well as with partners within and outside the United Nations system, while avoiding duplication of effort. The United Nations Environment Programme should also focus on activities in which it enjoys a comparative advantage;

2. Approves a core appropriation of 90 million dollars for Fund programme activities in 1996-1997 with an additional supplementary appropriation of 15 million dollars if and when funds become available;

3. Decides to apportion the appropriation for Fund programme activities in the biennium 1996-1997 as in the annex to the present decision;

4. Reconfirms the Executive Director's authority to adjust the apportionment for each budget line by 20 per cent, within the overall appropriation for Fund programme activities in 1996-1997;

5. Urges Governments to commit to meet their obligations by contributing to the Environment Fund in time;

6. Requests the Executive Director to continue mobilizing resources for the 1996-1997 programme of work;

7. Encourages the Executive Director that, in the implementation of the programme full consideration is given to partnership with relevant entities, the involvement of all sectors of society, and the strengthening of regional delivery.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

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Annex
Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997
(percentage allocations)

Subprogramme elements	Fund programme activities 1996-1997	%
1. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES	**39%**	
1.1 Caring for freshwater, coastal, marine resources	13,500	15%
1.2 Caring for biological resources	7,200	8%
1.3 Caring for land resources	8,100	9%
1.4 Information for decision-making and action planning	6,300	7%
2. SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION	**11%**	
2.1 Sustainable production	7,200	8%
2.2 Reduced environmental impacts of energy utilization	1,800	2%
2.3 Environmentally sustainable production and consumption patterns	900	1%
3. A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	**12%**	
3.1 Reduced impacts of toxic chemicals and wastes	5,400	6%
3.2 Improved environmental management practices in urban areas	4,500	5%
3.3 Environmental change and emergencies	900	1%
4. GLOBALIZATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT	**8%**	
4.1 Trade and the environment	900	1%
4.2 Environmental economics	900	1%
4.3 Environmental law	3,600	4%
4.4 Coordination and promotion of policy-relevant research	1,800	2%
5. GLOBAL AND REGIONAL SERVICING AND SUPPORT	**30%**	
5.1 Environment assessment	5,400	6%
5.2 Support to regional and subregional cooperation	9,000	10%
5.3 Public awareness, education and outreach to major groups	8,100	9%
5.4 Design and implement a coordinated system for international environmental information exchange: UNEPNET	4,500	5%
Total	90,000	100%

18/41. The Environment Fund

A. Resources of the Environment Fund

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the status of the Environment Fund,[78]

Recalling its decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993 and, in particular, paragraph 5 thereof, by which it reaffirmed that, in conformity with Agenda 21[1] and in order to be able to exercise all the functions assigned to it in Agenda 21, the United Nations Environment Programme requires access to greater expertise and provision of adequate financial resources, particularly in accordance with chapters 33 and 38 of Agenda 21,

Recalling with concern occurrences of carry-overs of substantial cash balances from biennium to biennium,

1. Notes with great concern the deterioration of the environment and strongly stresses the need for urgent and immediate action;

2. Notes with appreciation the pledges and contributions made by Member States to the Environment Fund;

3. Notes further with deep concern that pledges and contributions for 1995 have not only fallen short of the target established by the Council, but may be insufficient to finance the Fund programme of activities approved by the Council at its seventeenth session;

4. Recognizes the need to broaden the base of contributions to the Environment Fund and calls upon all Governments to contribute to the Environment Fund or, where they are already contributing, to increase their contributions;

5. Urges Governments to make their pledges in advance of the year to which they relate and to pay their contributions early in the year in order for the secretariat to plan and execute the programme more effectively and avoid unnecessary carry-over of funds;

6. Requests the Executive Director to undertake a process of negotiating the amount and timing of pledges and contributions with Member States, in order to reverse the declining trend in contributions to the Environment Fund and to enable the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully its programme;

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[78] UNEP/GC.18/14 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Corr.1.

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7. Urges the Executive Director, in order to eliminate the practice of carrying over cash balances from biennium to biennium, to recommend to the Governing Council, for its approval, a minimum level of financial reserve which would ensure both the liquidity of the organization and the continuity of programme delivery;

8. Authorizes the Executive Director, pending receipt of contributions, to enter in to obligations up to one-half of the total amount of conditional government pledges,[71] and of firm pledges from organizations of established repute;

9. Further requests the Executive Director to analyse the causes of falling contributions, recommend solutions and to study ways and means of raising additional financial resources and periodically to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the progress made and report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

B. The Environment Fund: use of resources in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 and proposed use of projected resources in the biennium 1996-1997

The Governing Council,

Having considered the report of Executive Director on the Environment Fund covering the use of resources in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 and the proposed use of projected resources in the biennium 1996-1997,[70]

1. Expresses its appreciation to those Governments that have contributed or have pledged to contribute to the Fund at a higher level in 1994 and 1995;

2. Reconfirms that, in conformity with Agenda 21[1] and in order to be able to exercise the functions assigned to it, the United Nations Environment Programme requires access to greater expertise and provision of adequate financial resources;

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[71] "Conditional government pledges" shall mean the pledges which are subject to completion of the necessary legislative and administrative processes of the contributing Governments.

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3. Approves an appropriation of 90 million dollars for Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997 and decides to apportion this appropriation between the subprogrammes as follows:

Subprogramme	Millions of dollars
1. Sustainable management and use of natural resources	35.1
2. Sustainable production and consumption	9.9
3. A better environment for human health and well-being	10.8
4. Globalization and the environment	7.2
5. Global and regional servicing and support	27.0
	90.0

4. Also approves an additional sum of 15 million dollars for Fund programme activities to be implemented if and when sufficient resources become available;

5. Approves an appropriation of 5 million dollars to the Fund programme reserve for the biennium 1996-1997;

6. Reconfirms the Executive Director's authority to adjust the apportionment for each budget line by 20 per cent, within the overall appropriation for Fund programme activities in 1996-1997;

7. Authorizes the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million dollars for Fund programme activities in the biennium 1998-1999;

8. Requests the Executive Director to prepare for the biennium 1998-1999 two alternative programmes for Fund activities of 105 million dollars and 130 million dollars respectively;

9. Authorizes the Executive Director to increase gradually the level of the financial reserve to 20 million dollars by 1999;

10. Approves the write-off of 3,963 dollars for 1990 and 19,554 dollars for 1991 in outstanding pledges;

11. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its regular meetings on matters of programme implementation and planning.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

C. Environment Fund: Financial report and audited accounts for for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993

The Governing Council,

Having considered the Executive Director's report on the Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993,[72]

Noting General Assembly resolution 49/216 A of 23 December 1994, in which it accepted the financial reports and audited financial statements and audit opinions and reports of the Board of Auditors,[73] and approved the recommendations and conclusions of the Board of Auditors and the comments thereon contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[74]

1. Takes note of the comments of the Executive Director on the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited financial statements of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993 and on the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. Requests the Executive Director to provide an information document to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session on measures she has put in place in response to the queries raised by the auditors and the views expressed at the eighteenth session of the Council.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/42. Programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1994-1995/Management and administrative support costs budget of the Environment Fund: proposed budget for the biennium 1996-1997

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 4 of its decision 17/33 of 21 May 1993, by which it approved an initial appropriation of 41,829,500 dollars for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995,

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[72] UNEP/GC.18/16.

[73] A/49/5/Add.6.

[74] A/49/547.

Further recalling its decision 17/41 of 21 May 1993 on the financial management and structure of the United Nations Environment Programme, including presentation of financial information and the budget of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Having considered the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995 as well as the proposed management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997, as set out in the Executive Director's report,[75] together with the related comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[76]

1. Takes note of the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. Notes that proposed changes in original appropriations for programme and programme support costs should be limited solely to non-discretionary cost increases;

3. Recognizes the efforts undertaken by the Executive Director to comply with decision 17/41 by revising the budget format of the Programme but reiterates the need for clarity and transparency in the presentation of information on matters of budget and administration;

4. Expresses concern at the comments contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, notes that the Advisory Committee has subsequently acknowledged the receipt of a response from the Executive Director[77] and requests that the further information provided to the Governing Council in the report of the Executive Director on the United Nations Office in Nairobi[78] and the note by the Executive Director on the report of the Advisory Committee[79] is transmitted to the Committee;

5. Requests the Executive Director in this context to ensure that the Advisory Committee receives sufficient and timely information for its purposes in future, and asks the Executive Director to address fully the comments contained in its report;

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[75] UNEP/GC.18/32 and Corr.1.

[76] UNEP/GC.18/L.1.

[77] UNEP/GC.18/32/Add.2.

[78] UNEP/GC.18/32/Add.1.

[79] UNEP/GC.18/32/FC/CRP.2.

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6. *Notes* that the Executive Director was able to contain the programme and programme support costs in 1994 within the limit established in paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 12/19 of 28 May 1984 of 33 per cent of estimated contributions, and that the Executive Director will endeavour to do likewise in 1995;

7. *Approves* a revised appropriation of 41,048,900 dollars for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995, with the revised distribution by programme and object of expenditure proposed by the Executive Director;

8. *Notes* the proposal for a new budget format for a redefined programme and programme support costs budget to be known as the management and administrative support costs budget, to take effect on 1 January 1996 in accordance with the definitions set out by the Executive Director, and authorizes its use on an interim basis for the biennium 1996-1997, subject to review, any needed adjustment, and final approval by the Council at its nineteenth session;

9. *Approves* provisionally the staff redeployment and upgrading and the creation of the Ombudsman Unit, as proposed by the Executive Director in her reports on the proposed management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997[80] and on the United Nations Office in Nairobi,[78] on the condition that there is no overall increase in posts and budgetary allocations;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to report annually to the members of the Governing Council on the activities of the Ombudsman, including any comments of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on those activities;

11. *Decides* to review at its nineteenth session the provisional transfers, upgrades and changes of personnel, including the position of the Office of Ombudsman, authorized in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the present decision, with a view to final approval of personnel assignments in the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme, as part of the reorganized structure for the management of the Programme;

12. *Approves* an appropriation of 41,964,000 dollars for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997, with the expenditure pattern by programme and object of expenditure proposed in those estimates, as amended by paragraph 8 of decision 18/47 of 25 May 1995;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director to administer the appropriation for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997 with the utmost economy and restraint, consistent with the effective implementation of the environment programme, and to make every effort to reduce administrative expenditure under this budget, bearing in mind the reduced availability of resources;

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[80] UNEP/GC.18/32 and Corr.1, part three.

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14. _Further requests_ the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session on the implementation of the management and administrative support costs budget during the first year of the biennium 1996-1997;

15. _Agrees_ that, pending a formal revision of the Financial Rules and General Procedures of the Fund, to be undertaken by the Council at its nineteenth session, the term "programme and programme support costs" in those Rules and Procedures shall be understood as referring to management and administrative support costs;

16. _Reiterates_ its request to the Executive Director contained in paragraph 8 of its decision 17/41, to report in writing and consult with the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a quarterly basis on:

(a) The financial situation of the Environment Fund;

(b) The implementation of activities against budgets;

(c) Information on the staffing against established posts, and posts established by projects, trust funds, counterpart and other contributions and consultancies exceeding one month's duration;

(d) Information on all contracts concluded between the United Nations Environment Programme and cooperating agencies, supporting organizations or individuals.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/43. _Establishment of a United Nations Office in Nairobi_

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 47/212 of 23 December 1992 and 48/176 of 21 December 1993,

Noting the Secretary-General's proposal to the General Assembly on the creation of a United Nations Office in Nairobi with effect from 1 January 1996,

Noting with appreciation the work done so far by both the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the process leading to the establishment of the United Nations Office in Nairobi,

1. _Approves_ the attachment of administrative and conference services staff of the United Nations Environment Programme to the United Nations Office in Nairobi, as set out in the report of the Executive Director on the subject[78] and the payment of the cost of their emoluments from the management and administrative support costs budget, taking into account:

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(a) That the separate identities and equal status of the two organizations in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 47/212 and 48/176 should be maintained;

(b) That the Secretary-General explores the possibility of providing the subsequent budgets for the United Nations Office in Nairobi on a basis comparable to that used for other United Nations offices based in other United Nations headquarters;

(c) That, as far as possible, the reduction of staff should be through redeployment and attrition in order to realize the savings projected in the establishment of the United Nations Office in Nairobi;

2. Requests the Executive Director to keep the Committee of Permanent Representatives informed of the implementation of the present decision and to report to the Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session on the progress made.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/44. Trust funds

A. Management of trust funds

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/39 of 21 May 1993 on the management of trust funds,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds,[81]

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director;

2. Notes and approves the establishment of the following trust funds by the Executive Director, under the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, since the seventeenth session of the Governing Council:

(a) General Trust Fund for the Establishment of the Interim Secretariat of the Biological Diversity Convention - expiry date 31 December 1996;

(b) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Capacities of Developing Countries in the Management of Chemicals (financed by the Government of Switzerland) - expiry date 31 December 1995;

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[81] UNEP/GC.18/13 and Corr.1 and 2.

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(c) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Strengthen the Institutional and Regulatory Capacity of Developing Countries in Africa (financed by the Government of the Netherlands) - expiry date 30 September 1997;

(d) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support National Land Degradation Assessment and Mapping in Kenya (financed by the Government of the Netherlands) - expiry date 31 May 1995;

(e) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Europe and to Strengthen the Pan-European Environmental Cooperation (financed by the Government of the Netherlands) - expiry date 31 December 1998;

(f) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action in Accordance with Agenda 21 (financed by the Government of Sweden) - expiry date 31 December 1995;

(g) General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity - expiry date 31 December 1996;

(h) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research in the Use of Geographic Information Systems in Agricultural Research Management (financed by the Government of Norway) - no fixed expiry date;

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support Activities on Environmental Issues (financed by the Government of Japan) - expiry date 31 December 1995;

(j) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Promote Managerial Innovation and Excellence (financed by the Government of the United States of America) - no fixed expiry date;

(k) General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region - expiry date 31 December 1997;

3. Notes and approves the change of name of the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to UNEP/GRID (financed by the Government of Denmark) to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to UNEP/GRID (financed by the Government of the United States of America);

4. Notes and approves the extension of the following trust funds by the Executive Director:

(a) Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal - up to 31 December 1998;

(b) Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal - up to 31 December 1998;

(c) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme - up to 31 December 1997;

(d) Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - up to 31 December 2000;

(e) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Seas - up to 31 December 1996;

(f) Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals - up to 31 December 1997;

(g) Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer - up to 31 March 2000;

(h) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Finland) - up to 31 December 1995;

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility - up to 30 June 1997; and

(j) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Promote Technical Cooperation and Assistance in Industrial, Environmental and Raw Material Management (Financed by the Government of Sweden) - up to 31 December 1997;

5. Approves the extension of the following trust funds by the Executive Director, subject to United Nations Environment Programme receiving, in the case of general trust funds, requests to do so from the relevant Governments or contracting parties or, in the case of technical cooperation trust funds, the agreement of the Government concerned:

(a) Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region - up to 31 December 1997;

(b) Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean - up to 31 December 1997;

(c) Regional Trust Fund for Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates - up to 31 December 1997;

(d) Trust Fund for Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution - up to 31 December 1997;

(e) Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer - up to 31 March 2000;

(f) Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region - up to 31 December 1997;

(g) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action in Accordance with Agenda 21 (financed by the Government of Sweden) - up to 31 December 1997;

(h) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Activities in Developing Countries on Environmental Awareness and Machinery (financed by the Government of Germany) - up to 31 December 1997;

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to UNEP/GRID (financed by the Government of the United States) - not fixed;

(j) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Sweden) - up to 31 December 1997;

(k) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Establishment of the International Environmental Technology Centre in Japan - not fixed;

(l) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Develop and Coordinate the Implementation of the Plan for the Survey, Assessment and Dealing with the Consequences of Environmental Damage caused by Conflict between Kuwait and Iraq - up to 31 December 1997;

(m) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Financing of Professional Officers (financed by the Government of the Republic of Korea) - not fixed;

(n) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol (financed by the Government of Finland) - up to 31 December 1996;

6. Notes and approves the closure of the following trust funds by the Executive Director:

(a) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Clearing-house Mechanism through Provision of Consultancies on Strategies for Dealing with Serious Environmental Problems (financed by the Government of Norway);

(b) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Establishment of a Global Resource Information Database (GRID) Centre in Arendal (financed by the Government of Norway);

(c) Technical Assistance Trust Fund for an Integrated Pilot Project on Environmental Management and Protection of Andean Ecosystems Cajamarca, Peru (financed by the Government of Germany).

8th meeting
25 May 1995

B. Trust funds (other than convention-supporting trust funds)

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/39 of 21 May 1993 on trust funds administered by the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting that there is a sharp increase in the number as well as in the contributions to the trust funds,

Concerned at the increase in the cost of administering the trust funds by the United Nations Environment Programme,

Concerned also that contributions to the trust funds are not being paid ahead of the year in which they are required, resulting in temporary advances from the limited resources of the Environment Fund,

1. Requests the donors to the trust funds to abide strictly by the terms of the trust funds;

2. Recommends that every effort be made to reduce expenditure on the administration of trust fund programmes and that, to the extent possible, expenditure on these programmes be met by the funds concerned;

3. Requests the Executive Director to undertake a cost management study of expenditure on administering trust funds, of resource shortfalls and of possible ways to overcome such shortfalls, if any, and report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session;

4. Also requests the Executive Director to keep the Committee of Permanent Representatives fully informed of the measures taken in this regard.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/45. New developments in conference-servicing

The Governing Council,

Bearing in mind its decisions 17/34, 17/36, 17/37 and 17/38 of 21 May 1993, all of which have an impact on conference-servicing at the United Nations Office at Nairobi,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on new developments in conference-servicing;[82]

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[82] UNEP/GC.18/10.

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2. Commends the Executive Director for the achievements in remote translation and the efforts to provide diskettes containing meeting documents to delegates attending meetings convened under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. Encourages the Executive Director to study further technological improvements in order to provide modern, cost-efficient conference services at Nairobi and for meetings elsewhere;

4. Requests the Executive Director to provide adequate communications facilities for the use of government representatives at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, including communications facilities between the Office and the city;

5. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for cooperating with the Executive Director in providing the required infrastructure to facilitate the technological innovations programme for conference-servicing, in particular in the field of telecommunications, and urges the Government to continue such cooperation;

6. Requests the Executive Director to keep under review the financial viability of establishing a team of interpreters at Nairobi, and, if found financially advantageous, to establish a team on a pilot basis and, wherever possible, to offer interpretation facilities to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Economic Commission for Africa at cost;

7. Encourages the Executive Director to continue efforts to cooperate with other United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Economic Commission for Africa, in the provision of conference services;

8. Endorses the Executive Director's efforts to limit documents for the Governing Council to a maximum of four pages;

9. Requests the Executive Director to encourage convention secretariats administered by the United Nations Environment Programme to follow the same practice concerning documents;

10. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the issues referred to in the present decision to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/46. Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the increased importance, complexity and costs of United Nations system activities, including those of the United Nations Environment Programme,

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Recognizing also the importance of the oversight function to ensure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity in the cost-effective implementation of the Programme's activities,

Recognizing further the important role of the Board of Auditors as an external control mechanism of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Welcoming the establishment of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in the United Nations Secretariat in July 1994, which has jurisdiction over all United Nations organs, including the United Nations Environment Programme,

Desiring that the United Nations Environment Programme works closely with the Office of Internal Oversight Services to prevent waste, fraud and mismanagement,

1. Requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the Office of Internal Oversight Services, to formulate and enact a specific plan of action for the United Nations Environment Programme which will:

(a) Heighten the awareness of all members of the staff of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the need to combat waste, fraud and mismanagement;

(b) Establish practical measures and procedures which will enable them to do so;

2. Urges that the plan of action include the following measures:

(a) Formulation of a concise and comprehensible definition of what constitutes waste, fraud and mismanagement, and the dissemination of this statement to all levels of the organization;

(b) Promotion of uniform reporting procedures so that members of the staff, at all levels, may report suspected violations to a single local authority;

(c) Ensuring that briefings on waste, fraud and mismanagement are included in both staff orientation and refresher courses;

(d) Ensuring also that information on the range of penalties imposed on violators, including prosecution in cases of fraud, be widely disseminated;

(e) Local publication of offences uncovered, including the amounts of money lost and recovered, the offices in which violations occurred, and the disciplinary and follow-up actions taken by management;

3. Recommends that the Executive Director produce and disseminate a single administrative handbook, tailored to the requirements of the United Nations Environment Programme, which would contain the aforementioned

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plan of action, provide a guide to the numerous administrative manuals regulating the United Nations Environment Programme and highlight those prescribed methods and practices which could be most subject to the abuses of waste, fraud and mismanagement;

4. Requests that, in the interests of transparency, Governments have access to:

(a) Information on the status of all audit investigations, without prejudice to confidentiality;

(b) The results and recommendations of all audit investigations;

(c) The response of the management of the United Nations Environment Programme;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to implement the provisions of the present decision in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session;

6. Further requests the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its regular sessions the biennial report of the Board of Auditors to the United Nations Environment Programme as an information document.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/47. Mercure satellite telecommunications system

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 17/38 of 21 May 1993, by paragraph 7 of which it approved the Executive Director's proposal to finalize an agreement with the participants in the Mercure project,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the Mercure satellite telecommunications system,[83]

1. Expresses its gratitude to the donors for the generous contribution to the initial Mercure configuration that will facilitate access by the United Nations Environment Programme and its partners to services available through the emerging information highways, as well as allow the United Nations Environment Programme better to fulfil its mandate for delivery of environmental data in a more timely, cost-effective and efficient manner;

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[83] UNEP/GC.18/21 and Corr.1.

2. Also expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for its willingness to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme in the installation of this advanced system which will greatly enhance the timely exchange of environmental data and information on a worldwide basis;

3. Encourages countries with environmental data and information assets of value for the monitoring and management of environmental resources to provide for all countries, particularly developing countries, ease of access and delivery through this initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme;

4. Encourages the minimization of operations costs through efficient management by the United Nations Environment Programme and through arrangements in host countries that recognize the value of this asset without charges for its utilization;

5. Encourages the further expansion of this initial programme to new countries and users by seeking additional funding from other sources potentially available to the Programme and its integration with compatible systems existing within the United Nations;

6. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that a full review and cost-benefit analysis of the system and experience gained in its initial operation be carried out as soon as technically feasible, and that subsequent decisions on the use and operation of the system take fully into account the results of this assessment;

7. Further requests the Executive Director to present the results of the assessment referred to in paragraph 6 of the present decision, and any actions taken in response to it, to the Governing Council at its session in 1997, or to present a status report if the assessment has not been completed at that time;

8. Authorizes the Executive Director to finance the costs required to implement, manage and maintain the Mercure system in 1996-1997 by charging 700,000 dollars to the management and administrative support costs budget (communications) and the remaining costs, 1,295,000 dollars, to projects of the Environment Fund;

9. Requests the Executive Director to examine, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the possibility that, in subsequent bienniums, the costs for the implementation, management and maintenance of the Mercure system shall be covered by and presented under the management and administrative support costs budget and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session;

10. Decides that the Mercure agreement should be submitted to the General Assembly for endorsement in accordance with relevant United Nations procedures.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

18/48. Enhancing the utilization of human resources and the level of expertise within the United Nations Environment Programme

The Governing Council,

Desiring to ensure that human resources within the United Nations Environment Programme are effectively used and redeployed to higher-priority tasks, that duplications of function are eliminated and that the use of each staff position is periodically monitored for its maximum effectiveness,

Noting the Executive Director's recent expressions of concern that the level of expertise within the United Nations Environment Programme be raised and enhanced,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Executive Director of a combined management body which reviews on a regular basis the need to fill vacant positions, the extension of contracts and the redeployment of staff;

2. *Urges* the Executive Director to arrange for the conduct of periodic human resource audits;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to examine how the level of expertise in the United Nations Environment Programme might be further improved, possibly by the establishment of a firm staff rotational policy while maintaining a small core of Professional staff;

4. *Requests* that the Executive Director keep the Committee of Permanent Representatives informed of her efforts and report on the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

10th meeting
26 May 1995

18/49. Individual and corporate consultancies

The Governing Council,

Noting that the United Nations Environment Programme incurs significant expenditure on individual and corporate consultancies,

Noting also with concern the reference to consultancies contained in the report of the Board of Auditors on the financial report and audited financial statements of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1992-1993, ended 31 December 1993,[74]

Emphasizing that such expenditure is being incurred at a time of increasing pressure on the limited financial resources in the Environment Fund,

Concerned that the award of consultancies should be fully justified, *Recalling* that consultancies should not be awarded for work that should be done by the Programme's in-house staff,

Noting that a large number of consultancies are being awarded to nationals of only a few countries,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare and present to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, on a quarterly basis, a report on consultancies, including, as far as possible, consultancies that the United Nations Environment Programme plans to award, so that the Committee may express its views;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Committee of Permanent Representatives a statement listing the procedures to be followed in:

(a) Identifying the need for consultancies;

(b) Selecting consultancies;

(c) Assessing that duties have been properly performed;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the following principles are taken into account in the selection of the consultancies:

(a) Consultancies should be awarded on the basis of expertise and value for money;

(b) The number of consultancies should be kept to the minimum and the cost of each consultancy should also be kept to the minimum;

(c) Consultancies should be awarded only after it has been ascertained that no in-house expertise is available for the purpose;

(d) Consultancies should fit in with the work programme of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(e) Every effort should be made to select consultants from a variety of countries, including developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to the extent possible, taking due consideration of geographical balance and gender;

(f) Every effort should also be made to ensure that the nationals of no one country are awarded a disproportionate share of the amounts spent on consultancies;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that results of consultancies are evaluated by the United Nations Environment Programme;

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5. Further requests the Executive Director to continue to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in accordance with present practice, with details of consultancies awarded. The Committee may also be provided with other information that it may require on consultancies.

8th meeting
25 May 1995

Other decision

1. At its 8th plenary meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Governing Council decided, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, to hold its nineteenth session at Nairobi from 27 January to 7 February 1997.

2. The Council also decided that the informal consultations among heads of delegations should be held in the afternoon of Sunday, 26 January 1997, the day before the opening of the session.

3. The Council approved the following provisional agenda for the nineteenth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session.
    (a) Election of officers;
    (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Policy issues:
    (a) State of the environment;
    (b) Emerging policy issues;
    (c) Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations, including non-governmental organizations;
    (d) Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme.
5. Preparations for the 1997 review and appraisal of Agenda 21.
6. Programme matters.
7. The Environment Fund and administrative and other budgetary matters.
8. Provisional agenda, date and place of the twentieth session of the Council.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the session.

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Annex II

REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

A. Introduction

1. Under the chairmanship of the Vice-President, Mr. P. Unwin (United Kingdom), the Programme Committee held 13 meetings between 15 and 20 May 1995 to consider primarily those parts of agenda item 4 (Policy issues) that concerned the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997, in particular sub-items 4 (a), State of the environment; 4 (b), Emerging policy issues, and 4 (c), Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations; agenda item 5 (Implementation of Agenda 21); as well as agenda item 6 (Environment and economics). The Programme Committee also took up the report of the Executive Director on review of the role and function of the regional representation of UNEP, which had been issued under agenda item 7 (Administrative and budgetary matters) (UNEP/GC.18/31).

2. At the 1st meeting of the Committee, held on 15 May 1995, the Committee approved the organization of its work, as proposed in document UNEP/GC.18/PC/L.1.

3. At the 2nd meeting of the Committee, held on 15 May 1995, Mr. W. Jasinski (Poland) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

4. In considering the items on its work programme the Committee had before it the following documentation: suggested timetable for the Programme Committee (UNEP/GC.18/PC/L.1); the report of the Executive Director on improving the international response to environmental emergencies (UNEP/GC.18/2); the report of the Executive Director on implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1993-1994 (UNEP/GC.18/3 and Corr.1 and Corr.2); the report of the Executive Director on Earthwatch, environmental assessment and monitoring (UNEP/GC.18/4 and Corr.1); the report of the Executive Director on cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, awareness and preparedness for emergencies at local level, and development of international guidelines on potential environmental impacts that exporters of a technology could feasibly provide to importers (UNEP/GC.18/5); the report of the Executive Director on application of environmental norms by military establishments (UNEP/GC.18/6/Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on development of an international legally binding instrument for application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade (UNEP/GC.18/7 and Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on the development and use of environmental indicators (UNEP/GC.18/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on the proposed programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997 (UNEP/GC.18/9); the report of the Executive Director on the role of women in environment and development (UNEP/GC.18/11); the report of the Executive Director on progress of work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (UNEP/GC.18/12); the report of the Executive Director on international environmental technology centres (UNEP/GC.18/15 and Corr.1); the report of the Executive Director on the Climate Agenda - international climate-related programmes (UNEP/GC.18/17 and Corr.1); the report of the Executive Director on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.18/18 and Corr.1); the report of the Executive Director on implementation

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of Governing Council decision 17/27: "Action for countries with economies in transition" (UNEP/GC.18/19 and Corr.1); the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.18/23 and Adds.1 and 2); the Executive Director's statement on the environment (UNEP/GC.18/24); the report of the Executive Director on the UNEP action programme on environment and economics (UNEP/GC.18/25); the report of the Executive Director on implications for UNEP of major international events (UNEP/GC.18/26); the report of the Executive Director on issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions specifically calling for action by UNEP (UNEP/GC.18/28); the report of the Executive Director on cooperation between UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNEP/GC.18/29 and Corr.1); the report of the Executive Director on estimated costs for UNEP to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention (UNEP/GC.18/30); the report of the Executive Director on the review of the role and function of the regional representation of UNEP, including a plan of action to enhance the process of strengthening the regional and liaison offices (UNEP/GC.18/31); the report of the Executive Director on developments resulting from the work of the joint IAEA/IMO/UNEP Working Group on the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea (UNEP/GC.18/35); and the report of the Executive Director on the statement of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) on the status of women in the secretariats of the United Nations system (UNEP/GC.18/37).

5. The Committee also had before it a number of draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (UNEP/GC.18/L.3); international environmental technology centres (UNEP/GC.18/L.4); action for countries with economies in transition (UNEP/GC.18/L.5); implications for UNEP of major international events (UNEP/GC.18/L.6); issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions (UNEP/GC.18/L.7); estimated costs for UNEP to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention (UNEP/GC.18/L.8); the joint IAEA/IMO/UNEP Working Group on the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea (UNEP/GC.18/L.9); Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment (UNEP/GC.18/L.10); international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.18/L.12); the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (UNEP/GC.18/L.13); the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (UNEP/GC.18/L.15); environmental indicators (UNEP/GC.18/L.17); environment and sustainable development (UNEP/GC.18/L.18); the Environment Fund, financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993 (UNEP/GC.18/L.19); the cooperation between UNEP and UNCHS (UNEP/GC.18/L.20); the Climate Agenda (UNEP/GC.18/L.21); the Executive Director's statement on the environment (UNEP/GC.18/L.22); the role and priorities of UNEP (UNEP/GC.18/L.29); proposed programme of work (UNEP/GC.18/9/Add.1).

6. In addition, the following information documents were before the Committee: note by the Executive Director on memoranda of understanding concerning cooperation between UNEP and other organizations of the United Nations system (UNEP/GC.18/Inf.1 and Add.1); the executive summary of the 1992 Annual Report of the Executive

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Director (UNEP/GC.18/Inf.2); the Executive Summary of the 1993 Annual Report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.18/Inf.4; report of the second meeting on coordination of secretariats of environmental conventions (UNEP/GC.18/Inf.6).

B. Proposed programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997

7. Prior to the Committee's discussion of the proposed programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997 (UNEP/GC.18/9), the representative for the Executive Director explained that in the new proposed programme the 12 previous sectoral subprogrammes had been reshaped into five integrated, interdisciplinary multi-sectoral subprogrammes with strong emphasis on regional delivery. In that process, a number of previous areas of focus had been or were being downgraded or phased-out and critical and key emerging issues were being accentuated. Assessment, policy and management were no longer separated but were to be applied in virtually all the major clusters of activities, and that signified that programme implementation would require joint thematic programming, coordinated by the three responsible Assistant Executive Directors. It also meant that traditional approaches to those three activities had changed: assessment, in particular, reflected greater integration with policy and management, greater regional focus and responsiveness to information users' requirements. The representative said that, if the 1996-1997 programme were to be agreed, the secretariat would prepare, by August 1995, a detailed workplan for its implementation. Following consultations with partner organizations and institutions, respective project documents could be finalized by October 1995, ensuring, for the first time, that UNEP would be prepared to implement an articulated biennial work programme at the beginning of the biennium.

8. Representatives generally welcomed the thoroughness with which the Council documents had been prepared by the Secretariat and the timeliness of their delivery. Regarding document UNEP/GC.18/9, virtually all representatives agreed with the need for an integrated, holistic approach to addressing environmental issues. Nevertheless, many representatives expressed concern about how the secretariat proposed to discuss the document in the meetings of the Committee, given the absence of background information on the extent to which the proposed programme for 1996-1997 departed from that for 1994-1995. Several representatives expressed regret that some documents, such as the general policy statement of the Executive Director, had been distributed late.

9. The representative of the Executive Director, reiterated that document UNEP/GC.18/9 represented a condensed, sharply focused, integrated programme, which made it difficult to provide the information sought on previous subprogrammes in an easy manner. Nor would it be fruitful to dwell on comparisons with the previous programme. Rather, delegations were invited to regard the proposed programme as representing a change from that which had gone before.

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10. Several representatives argued in favour of a common point of departure, saying it would not be possible to consider the 1996-1997 proposals before a fuller description had been given by the secretariat of what had been dropped from and added to the 1994-1995 programme. Two representatives requested that the specific changes in the proposed programme of work should be identified.

11. A number of representatives identified specific issues requiring clarification or amplification. Acknowledging the need for an agency to deal with environment, one representative sought the secretariat's view on what was meant by UNEP being the conscience of the United Nations with respect to environment; what was UNEP's role with respect to that of the Commission on Sustainable Development; and what was the interface between UNEP and other United Nations organizations and agencies dealing with the environment. One representative enquired whether the proposed programme of work followed the funding percentages prescribed by the Council at its seventeenth session.

12. Two representatives were critical of UNEP's role in servicing the environmental conventions, claiming that UNEP, in proposing a strategy which included the subject of tropical forests, was pre-emptying the role of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The representative of the Executive Director indicated that the relationship between UNEP and the environmental conventions was currently under discussion in a separate forum and the Governing Council would be informed about those discussions upon their conclusion on 16 May.

13. In response to further requests by representatives for information on how the proposed work programme compared to the previous programme approved by the Council at its seventeenth session, the representative of the Executive Director agreed to provide that information, to the extent possible, subprogramme by subprogramme, although he emphasized the difficulty of such an exercise.

14. Many representatives expressed general support for the integrated approach to environmental management in the proposed programme of work of UNEP for 1996-1997. Others were concerned that integration might lead to the loss or downgrading of activities of high priority to them. One representative said he had submitted addenda to the secretariat in writing on subprogramme elements 1.1.3, concerning the Caspian Sea, and 3.1, concerning toxic chemical weapons.

15. In response to a request from several representatives, the secretariat distributed a paper, subsequently issued as document UNEP/GC.18/PC/CRP.1, outlining the refocusing of the previous twelve programme areas into the five subprogrammes contained in the proposed programme of work for 1996-1997. Although appreciative of the additional information, a number of representatives requested a further breakdown of the budget allocations, for the purpose of comparison with the allocations approved in Governing Council decision 17/32. Several representatives also requested information on the criteria used to identify and allocate funds to the priorities in the proposed programme of work for 1996-1997. They also asked for information on achievements and problems since the adoption of decision 17/32, as a benchmark for assessing the progress made by UNEP during the current biennium.

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16. The representative of the secretariat provided an overview of how the present subprogrammes were integrated and interlinked in the proposed programme of work. He also provided an outline, characterized as very approximate given the integrated nature of the proposed programme of work, comparing the percentage allocations of funding of the 1994-1995 work programme with those of the proposed programme for 1996-1997. Regarding achievements during that biennium, the representative of the Executive Director indicated that a biennial report on UNEP's activities during 1994 and 1995 was being prepared for Governing Council members, focusing on that transitional period. He noted also that annex II of the Fund programme activities document UNEP/GC.18/9 provided a summary of how the proposed programme of work related to the environmental goals set out in Agenda 21.

17. Several representatives requested a further breakdown of funding allocations by issue, specifically capacity-building activities across the integrated programme, as well as by regional delivery. The representative of the secretariat indicated that that would be difficult to prepare, given the integrated nature of the proposed programme of work and the fact that the regional activities appeared under all five subprogramme areas.

18. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization expressed support for effective partnership between UNEP and other organizations. He also suggested that WMO be mentioned as a continuing partner in the global freshwater assessment element and in support of the Convention to Combat Desertification. He went on to convey to the Committee the concerns of the WMO Executive Council about the proposed reduction of financial support to atmosphere and climate-related activities, such as the global observing systems to support climate activities and, more generally, the World Climate Programme, including its thrust 3: climate impact assessment and response strategy, for which UNEP had special responsibility. He stressed that such reduced support could lead to disruption of well-established international cooperation and urged the UNEP Governing Council to review the situation and ensure continuing practical support from UNEP to those activities and to the Climate Agenda in general.

19. Some representatives requested specific information on the relation between the UNEP proposed programme of work and the activities of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The representative of the Executive Director said that the issue of climate was closely interwoven with other subprogrammes (e.g. freshwater, Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre, biodiversity). He further noted that UNEP would support IPCC with personnel and related resources.

20. Responding to interventions from several representatives concerning the detail of individual subprogrammes, the Chairman suggested that those be considered during the debate on the subprogrammes.

21. The secretariat was asked, when presenting the proposals for each subprogramme, to explain the rationale of each subprogramme; how it related to 1994-1995; how UNEP would relate to other organizations; and what was UNEP's comparative advantage.

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22. One representative suggested that, in considering the subprogrammes, the Governing Council should have regard to document UNEP/GC.18/27 on environment and sustainable development, which provided a good test of UNEP's role in the world after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

23. The Chairman of the Programme Committee said that he had received a letter from the Chairman of the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters, informing him of the latter Committee's decision concerning the level of funding for the appropriation of Fund programme activities for 1996-1997. Copies of the letter in all official languages of the United Nations were made available to the Committee. The Programme Committee was asked in the letter to prepare and approve a core programme for Fund programme activities of $90 million, together with an additional programme of $10 million for Fund programme activities to be implemented if and when sufficient resources became available. Further, the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters suggested that the Programme Committee apportion that appropriation in terms of percentages, rather than actual US dollar values.

Subprogramme 1: Sustainable management and use of natural resources

24. The representative of the Executive Director, introducing subprogramme 1 of document UNEP/GC.18/9, said that the proposed programme belonged to Governments and had been developed in a process of consultation with them. Subprogramme 1 built on a number of UNEP success stories, of which he provided examples. It focused on environmental sustainability for human actions, with the integration of freshwater, coastal and marine areas, biodiversity, and land resources being a particular feature. He further indicated that new initiatives within that subprogramme included the use of assessment activities to support management action and the provision of advice in regard to the development and use of economic instruments and law in integrated environmental management. Finally, he noted that interaction with relevant partners was a fundamental component of the subprogramme and that the proposed activities complemented other regional initiatives, such as the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development.

25. One representative, speaking on behalf of the European Union, suggested that subprogramme 1 include both conservation and protection of natural resources, and that 35 per cent of the proposed budget be allocated to that subprogramme. Several representatives indicated that the subprogramme should focus on action, rather than on the development of protocols and legal instruments. One representative asked how non-governmental organizations would participate in the implementation of projects. The representative speaking on behalf of the European Union emphasized the need to take into account clarity and transparency in the preparation of programme

information documents for verification and decision-making. Many representatives stressed that UNEP should concentrate on its value-added role in regard to the issues contained in the subprogramme and work to avoid any duplication or overlapping of effort.

Subprogramme element 1.1: Caring for freshwater, coastal and marine living resources

26. Most representatives appreciated the integrated approach incorporated in the subprogramme element, although they had specific questions or comments on its content. One asked about the criterion used to select the watersheds to be addressed, noting that a geographic balance should be maintained. The representative of the Executive Director answered that it was based on requests from Governments.

27. Several representatives enquired about the allocation of funds between the Freshwater and Oceans and Coastal Areas subprogramme elements. Several expressed strong support for the Regional Seas Programmes. Many representatives and the observers of international organizations expressed concern that the oceans and coastal areas component appeared to have been downgraded in favour of activities relating to freshwater. One representative enquired about how the small island developing States referred to in the subprogramme element were to be selected. The representative of the Executive Director indicated that the proposed apportionment of funds for that element, in approximate terms, was 47.5 per cent for the regional seas; 40 per cent for freshwater; and 12.5 per cent for land-based sources of pollution.

28. One representative asked for more attention and resources to be directed to his region. One representative drew attention to the lack of programme activities in the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca. Another representative strongly supported inclusion of the Caspian Sea, while yet another supported the inclusion of the Nile Basin. One representative requested that more resources be allocated to waste-water disposal, particularly as it related to persistent organic pollutants. Another contrasted the serious problems of water pollution in developed countries with the problems of drought and water storage in developing countries.

29. The proposed activities under the issue of land-based sources of pollution were generally well-received. Two representatives hoped that such activities would not focus on merely furthering the Montreal Guidelines, but rather on the Programme of Action to be developed at the Washington Conference. One representative cited a possible clearing-house role for UNEP in that connection. A number of representatives noted that the Commission on Sustainable Development at its next meeting would review the subject of oceans, and suggested that UNEP prepare accordingly, through appropriate elements of its work programme.

30. A number of representatives, noting the reference to Antarctica in the subprogramme element, suggested that UNEP restrict its role to the raising of awareness. Two others requested further information on the respective roles of UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) on the topic of drinking water supply. One representative

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called for UNEP's assistance to develop further the existing cooperative programme involving three countries in the south-west Atlantic Ocean subregion, in order to include the protection and management of the marine environment.

Subprogramme element 1.2: Caring for biological resources

31. One representative wished the references to UNEP involvement in trade issues to be deleted. Two others disagreed, stating that UNEP's work in environment and trade policies was important, particularly for educating those involved in trade policy on the environmental ramifications.

32. Some representatives considered that UNEP should restrict its role in biodiversity to servicing the Convention on Biological Diversity and avoid duplicating the work of others. One representative said that all UNEP activities in the field of biodiversity, should be undertaken in the context of the Convention on Biodiversity, and should be supportive of developing countries in their implementation of the Convention. The representative of the Executive Director noted that the mandate of UNEP in regard to biodiversity extended beyond the Convention and he highlighted the biodiversity goals outlined in Agenda 21. Several representatives acknowledged the potential contribution of UNEP in the area of biodiversity and trade.

33. Several representatives welcomed UNEP's support for the International Coral Reef Initiative.

34. Several representatives indicated that UNEP's activities related to biodiversity should not duplicate or preempt the discussions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. One requested a clarification of the specific nature of the support that UNEP intended to provide to the Convention. The representative of the Executive Director indicated that UNEP would provide an Information Management Officer and a Fund Management Officer. Several representatives said that UNEP should consult closely with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other convention secretariats in implementing relevant sections of the programmes.

35. Several representatives pointed to a need for UNEP to clarify its role in the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, and also expressed a wish that resources allocated to the subprogramme element be increased. In addition, several representatives emphasized that, in developing the subprogramme element, UNEP should make reference to the previous decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development concerning forests.

36. Many representatives expressed the importance of biosafety and observed that UNEP had the capacity and expertise in this area and should continue to play a key role in the field and proposed an increase in the financial allocations for the work proposed. However, some representatives stressed that that initiative should not prejudge the outcome of the work initiated by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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37. Some representatives believed that UNEP should not be substantially involved in biosafety, since it was being debated in other forums. The representative of the Executive Director replied that biosafety in the Convention on Biological Diversity focused on the transfer and safe handling of living modified organisms. The mandate of UNEP was broader and embraced biosafety related both to living modified and non-modified organisms as well as components of biological organisms utilized in production. One representative suggested that that element of the subprogramme be retitled "Biotechnology, genetic resources and biosafety" and focus more specifically on those three issues. Another representative commented that genetic resource issues were being addressed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

38. Several representatives indicated that they would provide detailed comments in writing to the Secretariat.

Subprogramme element 1.3: Caring for land resources

39. Many representatives considered desertification control to be an important environmental issue; that UNEP had an important role; and that the allocation of resources to the issue was inadequate. One representative, highlighting poverty as a major cause of related environmental degradation, said that the socio-economic aspects of desertification should also be addressed. He also noted that the major part of funds for related programmes to support development of national action programmes for combating desertification was allocated to publication and dissemination of information, rather than to development of the action programmes themselves.

40. Some representatives wished there to be consideration of a more geographically balanced distribution of funds. A number of representatives wanted more funds allocated to activities addressing both desertification and land degradation. One of them said that the Commission on Sustainable Development resolution on desertification should also be considered.

41. One representative wanted the support for Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects to be increased, rather than decreased, so that UNEP could influence and activate GEF on that topic. Another representative drew attention to an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific/UNEP desertification programme centre in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to a forthcoming conference on desertification in June 1995. He also suggested an addendum to the draft resolution on implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, contained in document UNEP/GC.18/L.15.

42. One representative provided a paragraph for consideration by the Committee, to the effect that more emphasis should be given to integrated watershed and coastal zone management. The representative of WMO expressed his support for effective partnership between UNEP and other organizations. He also suggested that WMO be mentioned as a continuing partner for the global freshwater assessment element, and also for the element in support to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

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43. Many representatives expressed strong support for UNEP's work on pollution from land-based sources, urging continued efforts on that issue. One described the plan of action for the protection of marine and coastal environments, recently adopted by the north-east Asian countries. He also expressed appreciation for UNEP's contribution to that effort, and invited continued UNEP involvement. Several representatives welcomed UNEP's continuing contributions to the preparations on the Intergovernmental Conference to be held in Washington D.C. in November 1995.

44. One representative described the history of the Comprehensive Freshwater Assessment requested by CSD, noting that activities to address that request had begun, in which the Stockholm Environment Institute played a major role. She also highlighted UNEP's important role in river basin studies as a major component of that effort.

45. One representative provided some detailed comments on UNEP's proposed activities in the Xinjiang and Erhai Lake regions of China.

46. Another representative requested a clearer definition of the work of UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) in regard to drinking water and sanitation. The representative of the Executive Director provided a clarification. The representative also stressed the role for UNEP in the issues of forestry and oceans.

47. In answer to one representative's enquiry about the extent of freshwater activities in Asia and the Far East, the representative of the Executive Director identified a number of ongoing and planned activities in that region. Another representative expressed strong support for more emphasis on the sewage problems of coastal and marine waters, as well as on drinking water and sanitation issues. Several representatives urged more work on coral reefs.

48. The Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity outlined the cooperative work with UNEP. Many representatives emphasized that efficient cooperation between UNEP and the convention secretariats was essential. In view of the limited resources, they reiterated that every effort should be made to avoid any duplication and overlapping between UNEP programme activities and those of the conventions.

49. One representative again questioned UNEP's interpretation of its wider role in regard to biodiversity beyond that of simply servicing the Convention. UNEP's work in developing or promoting guidelines on biosafety should not preempt the work of the Ad Hoc committees and of the Conference of the Parties working on that topic. The representative of the Executive Director reiterated that UNEP's role in biodiversity was largely mandated by Agenda 21 as well as to give support to other biodiversity-related conventions. One representative proposed that the results of UNEP's work in this field be submitted to the relevant meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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50. One representative considered that UNEP should avoid any interpretation of Agenda 21 or the Convention to justify its activities which fell outside the purview of the Convention. Above all, UNEP should not attempt to rewrite the Convention and reintroduce elements which had been rejected during the negotiating of the Convention.

51. One representative considered that UNEP had an important role to play in the debate on trade and the environment and disagreed with the suggested deletion of that topic from the proposed programme of work. However, several others suggested that UNEP's proposed work in trade liberation and biodiversity should be reviewed to ensure that the focus was appropriate.

52. Several representatives argued that the desertification problem in Africa was urgent and asked for more resources to be allocated to the Convention to Combat Desertification. Another indicated that land degradation issues should not be considered in isolation from the other subprogramme elements. He also suggested the deletion of references to agricultural subsidies and commodity pricing as causes of land degradation, noting that UNEP's limited resources should not be spent on that issue. One representative sought clarification regarding the allocation of resources to desertification activities in the current biennium and the proposed allocation for urgent action for Africa under the programme for 1996-1997.

Subprogramme element 1.4: Information for decision-making and action planning

53. One representative, speaking on behalf of the European Union, requested clarification on the content of ENRIN and its relationship with UNEPNET and the other elements of the programme linked to a database, taking account of the high financial allocation for this programme. One representative, pointing to the considerable scope of the ENRIN programme, asked for a briefing note.

54. A number of representatives again stressed the need for regional balance in the proposed programme of work. The representative of the Executive Director replied that UNEP tried to ensure the desired balance, but UNEP activities were largely driven by requests from Governments, subject to availability of funds.

55. One representative urged that UNEP's programme be more open-ended and dynamic, suggesting that UNEP be more pro-active, not necessarily waiting for formal requests from Governments before taking action, particularly concerning emerging environmental problems. He also encouraged closer cooperation between UNEP and the Economic Commission for Europe.

56. On a point of order, one representative stated that the proposed core budget of $90 million and its supplementary budget of $10 million represented a substantial decrease from the level of funding for the previous biennium. Since some of the activities under consideration might have to be eliminated under the reduced budget proposed, there was little point in detailed discussions on the proposed programme of work, and funding matters should be considered first. However, the majority of representatives agreed on the need to continue discussing the proposed programme of work.

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57. Some representatives suggested establishing an ad hoc group to discuss budget priorities concurrently with the programme discussions. Many representatives asked the secretariat to express the proposed budget allocations in both percentage and dollar terms. The Chair said that further consideration would be given as to how to proceed with the budgetary question.

Subprogramme 2: Sustainable production and consumption

58. The representative of the Executive Director introduced subprogramme 2, explaining that it addressed production and consumption processes that resulted in unsustainable use of natural resources and energy, and in the accumulation of wastes, pollutants and emissions. The subprogramme addressed both the production issues (supply side) and the consumption issues (demand side) and their linkages. It built upon the past successes and strengths of UNEP, in particular the Cleaner Production Programme, the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APELL) programme, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It also followed up on guidance from several high-level meetings, including the Oslo Roundtable on Sustainable Production and Consumption, the high-level advisory seminars on cleaner production in Warsaw and on APELL in Paris, the CSD meeting on chapter 34 of Agenda 21, and the intergovernmental meeting on the World Climate Programme.

59. The representative of the Executive Director explained that, in terms of new thrusts, the subprogramme would address cleaner products and services as well as cleaner processes. It would integrate energy production and consumption throughout, and promote cleaner production to phase out the use of toxic chemicals and substances. The subprogramme would focus on collecting high-quality information and transferring it through a broad range of information dissemination methods, including an improved and expanded cleaner production clearing-house. That would include information on environmentally sound and energy conservation technologies, environmental management tools, and methodologies for technology assessment and greenhouse gas reduction. The subprogramme would mobilize action and build capacity through the establishment of National Cleaner Production Centres and collaborating centres in the field of energy. Those activities would be carried out with international and national agencies and would leverage national resources to the greatest extent possible. A new element of the subprogramme would raise awareness about consumption and production issues through policy dialogues between developed and developing countries.

60. The representative of the Executive Director went on to state that, in terms of continued activities, the APELL programme would target specific situations - ports, transport of dangerous goods and pipelines. Industry-related activities would focus on tourism, industrial estates and soil contamination and address environmental management systems in small- and medium-sized enterprises. Support would continue to be given to the Basel Convention, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, and to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. However, unilateral activities at the national level would be discontinued and less

emphasis would be placed on sectoral issues. UNEP would maintain support to IPCC and the Global Climate Observing System, coordinate the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme and carry out its coordination mandate under the climate agenda.

61. In relation to the 1994-1995 subprogramme, the 1996-1997 proposal would: Include the total of the 1994-1995 subprogramme number 9, addressing industry issues, under the 1996-1997 subprogramme 2, with 1996-1997 funding of $6.7 million, as compared to $6.2 million in 1994-1995;

Include subprogramme element 11.9 of the 1994-1995 subprogramme, on cleaner production capacity-building, at a level of $3 million in 1996-1997, as compared to $1 million in 1994-1995;

Include subprogramme 9.5 of the 1994-1995 programme, addressing energy issues, at a funding level of $1.4 million in 1996-1997, as compared to $100,000 in 1994-1995;

Include parts of subprogramme elements 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, of the 1994-1995 atmosphere programme at a funding level of $1.4 million in 1996-1997, as compared to $1 million in 1994-1995; and

Include parts of the 1994-1995 subprogramme 8, addressing toxic chemicals, at the level of $400,000 in the 1996-1997 programme, including support to the Basel Convention.

62. Finally, the representative of the Executive Director explained that the partners in the programme included the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the International Programme on Chemical Safety, the World Tourism Organization, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Chamber of Commerce and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. Specifically, the National Cleaner Production Centres were jointly run with UNIDO. UNEP's added value included its expertise in cleaner production, accident prevention, and environmental management tools for industry. It had been successful in facilitating exchange of information, experience and expertise, especially between developed and developing countries, and had also supported financing agencies in incorporating cleaner and safer production into their funding programmes.

63. Many representatives and the observers from some international organizations supported subprogramme 2 in general, recognized the importance of aiming at sustainable production and consumption as a key element of supporting sustainable development under Agenda 21, and complimented the secretariat on the integrated nature of this subprogramme. A number of representatives commented favourably on UNEP's role as a facilitator of technological cooperation, called for additional training and capacity- building activities and recommended additional cooperation and partnerships with international and national organizations. Several representatives recognized the priority that the CSD had accorded to the issue,

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recognized UNEP's support for the CSD with respect to technology transfer and cooperation relating to environmentally sound technologies and pointed out that UNEP's scientific and technical expertise could provide a valuable resource for the CSD activities, in particular the CSD's work programme on sustainable production and consumption.

64. One representative questioned the allocation of resources to analytical work rather than to implementation activities and suggested that this be reviewed. Two representatives enquired about the procedure for allocating funds to subprogrammes. The Chair said that the issue would be dealt with after the review of the five subprogrammes had been completed.

Subprogramme element 2.1: Sustainable production

65. Several representatives commented favourably on the high quality work done by UNEP's Industry and Environment office in Paris and suggested that the subprogramme element be strengthened. One representative, speaking on behalf of the European Union, and one other representative stressed the important of the APELL programme for accident prevention and response, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. They recommended additional awareness-raising activities, workshops, training, and expert assistance.

66. A few representatives said that it was important to go beyond the production of studies and policies to the implementation of solutions, especially in developing countries. One of them suggested combining several of the subprogramme elements to reinforce that emphasis.

67. Several representatives expressed support for the National Cleaner Production Centres. Two suggested that those should be coordinated with the regional centres being established under the Basel Convention for technology transfer for hazardous waste management. One representative expressed concern about supporting the longer-term operational costs of such centres.

68. Many representatives called for continued support of the secretariats for the international conventions including the Basel Convention, the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Several of those representatives pointed out that the Basel Convention was very effective in reducing transboundary shipments of hazardous wastes and that the funding for that secretariat was inadequate. Those representatives supported the expansion of the subprogramme element to include efforts to control transboundary shipments of hazardous waste under other regional conventions and protocols, and to accelerate the development of protocols to deal with liability and compensation. One representative proposed that the title of element 2.1.7 be amended to read "Support to the Basel Convention and other related regional conventions".

69. One representative, speaking on behalf of the European Union, and two other representatives pointed to the need for a guideline or protocol on the export of potentially hazardous technologies, especially to developing countries and countries

with economies in transition. Two representatives pointed out that potentially hazardous technologies were sometimes transferred to developing countries which indicated the need to enhance the bargaining power of those countries and to establish a mechanism for assuring compliance with environmental standards in the country of origin.

70. Some representatives pointed out that UNEP could profit from expanded partnerships with OECD (especially in the area of economic instruments), NGOs, industry and industry associations, especially with respect to the training of environmental managers.

Subprogramme element 2.2: Reduced environmental impacts of energy utilization

71. A number of representatives, as well as the representatives of IPCC, UNFCCC and WMO, questioned whether the level of support for the UNFCCC, including greenhouse gas reduction technologies, for the World Climate Programme and for UNEP's responsibility as coordinator of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme was adequate. They were especially concerned about UNEP's capacity for providing assistance to developing countries, and asked for clarification from the secretariat. The Chairman of the IPCC summarized the major outputs from IPCC over the next few years and pointed out that working on greenhouse gas reduction was an important activity for UNEP.

72. Two representatives supported the inclusion of energy policy and conservation technologies in this subprogramme element and one indicated that there was good potential for cooperation and joint funding with OECD/International Energy Agency, NGOs and industrial associations. One representative reiterated concern about the level of funding for atmosphere.

Subprogramme element 2.3: Environmentally sustainable production and consumption patterns

73. There was general support for the subprogramme elements dealing with sustainable consumption, but there were differences of opinion on whether priority should be placed on production issues (where good progress had been made to date) or consumption issues which, some representatives said, needed more attention. One representative, speaking on behalf of the European Union, and one other representative supported an enhanced role for UNEP on the demand side, especially as a catalyst in the area of sustainable consumption patterns. Two representatives questioned work on consumer awareness and stated that the outputs should be more specific. Another representative warned against duplicating the OECD work on environmentally sustainable consumption in developed countries.

Subprogramme 3: A better environment for human health and well-being

74. In introducing subprogramme 3, the representative of the Executive Director stated that the justification for the subprogramme was clear. Principle 1 of Agenda 21 clearly put human beings at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and declared that they were entitled to a healthy and productive life,

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in harmony with nature. The Executive Director's speech at the opening of the session, he said, had stressed that UNEP would address the general issues of environmental change and human health and well-being in subprogramme 3. What UNEP had attempted to do was to produce a more cohesive programme by integrating the Health, Human Settlements and Welfare subprogramme of the 1994-1995 programme of work with that of Toxic Waste and Chemicals, adding the work on prior informed consent (PIC) and the activities of the International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC). From a budgetary point of view, approximately 11 per cent of the 1994-1995 resources had been allocated to those activities, but in a disaggregated manner, divided among four subprogrammes. In 1996-1997, the proposal was to allocate almost the same proportion (11.62 per cent) allocated provisionally as follows:

- 3.52 per cent to reduced impact of toxic chemicals and waste;
- 5.05 per cent to improved environmental management practices in urban areas; and
- 3.05 per cent to developing response strategies for environmental threats, emergencies and change.

75. The representative of Japan announced that, as its host country, Japan would continue to support the IETC.

76. One representative, supported by a number of others, said that activities under this subprogramme appeared to be related only to urban areas and should also reflect rural areas.

77. Many representatives criticized inconsistencies in terminology referring to toxic chemicals and hazardous waste.

78. Many representatives expressed support for the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) and concern for the proposed budgetary cuts, particularly in view of its increased responsibilities. One representative stated that database activities needed to be reoriented and that IRPTC's information clearing-house role should not duplicate the Basel Convention, which should be included as a partner. The representative of the Executive Director pointed out that additional support for those activities could be found elsewhere in document UNEP/GC.18/9.

79. One representative requested the Executive Director to initiate a scientific and environmentally oriented study of the impact and long-term effects of dumped and buried toxic wastes on the terrestrial and marine environment and report its results to the next session of the Council.

80. A number of representatives expressed concern about the apparent reduction of support for the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS). They suggested that 1994-1995 levels of funding should be maintained for work on PIC activity.

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81. There was general agreement that a legally binding instrument should be negotiated. Several representatives said it should be based on the amended London Guidelines and the FAO code of conduct. Several representatives expressed the view that consideration should be given to an export ban on domestically prohibited chemicals. Several representatives proposed an increase in financial allocations for the development and adoption of an international convention on PIC. The representative of the Netherlands pledged his Government's support for developing a legally binding instrument for PIC. His Government was ready to host a final meeting for that purpose. One representative said it should also take into account the decisions of the recent meeting held in Bruges in March 1995 of the working group of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety.

82. One representative suggested that the experience of the Basel Secretariat with PIC should be used and that its Secretariat should be included as a partner in that process.

83. The representative of FAO noted that UNEP had been working on PIC procedure jointly with FAO and had signed a memorandum of understanding in 1992. He expressed a wish for further close collaboration with UNEP in the development of a legally binding instrument on PIC.

84. Another representative stated that the proper management of waste-water was a high priority for developing countries. She also said that central Governments should be included as partners in the Sustainable Cities Programme.

85. One representative said there was a need to link subprogramme element 3.2.1, activity 2, transportation, with subprogramme element 2.2 on energy. She also expressed concern about a possible duplication between IETC and the International Cleaner Production Information Clearing-house.

86. One representative recalled the United Nations Global Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados, and sought assurance that particular attention be given to the development of strategies and action plans for solid waste management in small island States.

87. One representative expressed support for the GEMS Air programme as a tool for local-level policy makers in addressing urban air quality issues.

88. With regard to IRPTC, several representatives expressed their full support for that area of activities, although there was concern about the apparent reduction in the financial allocation to the subprogramme element.

89. One representative suggested that IRPTC be incorporated into IPCS. The same representative also felt that the scope of IRPTC was too wide, because it included both hazardous chemicals and toxic waste.

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90. A number of representatives stressed the importance of pollution management, particularly in developing countries. One representative suggested that UNEP should assist developing countries in assessing environmental damage related to transportation systems.

91. Several representatives expressed support for the Sustainable Cities Programme. Replying to a request for further information, the representative of the Executive Director said that a special presentation was to be made on the joint programme the following day.

92. One representative welcomed the proposed work on water-related and vector-borne diseases.

93. Another representative congratulated UNEP on the establishment of the UNEP Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) unit. Several others endorsed the rapid response facility for dealing with environmental emergencies, as outlined in the programme document. Some additional information was requested on the contribution of DHA to the unit and assurances were sought that its work did not overlap with that of APELL. One representative sought assurance that natural disasters were included in the activities under developing a rapid response to environmental emergencies. One representative, speaking on behalf of the European Union, and two other representatives sought additional information on the proposed conference on emerging threats. Two of those representatives questioned the need for UNEP to organize and convene the conference on emerging threats and requested clarification. The representative of the Executive Director provided more details on the nature of the conference.

94. One representative requested an explanation of the term "enhanced regional cooperation" in relation to UNEP's proposed activities in the Nile and Antarctica. Two representatives referred to the UNEP mandate to work in Antarctica given by the General Assembly and supported continued activity in that area. One representative sought to delete the reference to Antarctica in the subprogramme and retain it under "information gathering" in a more appropriate part of the document.

Subprogramme 4: Globalization and the environment

95. The Assistant Executive Director of the Policy Division introduced subprogramme 4, comprising UNEP's proposed subprogramme in trade and environment, environmental economics, environmental law and coordination and promotion of policy-relevant research. He said that UNEP's 1994-1995 programme on environment and economics included: valuation of environment and natural resources; environment and natural resources accounting; economic instruments; environmental impact assessment (EIA); and international cooperation, with an emphasis on trade and environment. Under each component work was done to review and analyse experience, promote networking, information exchange and coordination, and to undertake capacity-development in its broader sense. UNEP's 1996-1997 Environment and Economics programme would focus on: increased capacity-building; more focused empirical and policy analysis; and testing and application of environmental economics tools and methodologies.

96. The Assistant Executive Director explained that, in its work on trade and environment, UNEP recognized that the mutually supportive relationship between trade and environment must take into account the urgent development requirements of developing countries. The subprogramme intended to help UNEP bring objective, timely environmental information and analysis to the trade-environment dialogue. He noted that care needed to be taken to prevent environmental protection from becoming an excuse for illegal trade protectionism.

97. UNEP's 1994-1995 trade-environment programme had benefited from close cooperation with the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Trade and Environment, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), OECD and others. The programme included support to over 50 developing countries in capacity-building and the production of 12 publications in the UNEP-Environment and Trade series, as well as co-hosting with UNCTAD two Ministerial sessions on trade and environment. Another element of the subprogramme included examining the relationship between economics, trade and finance.

98. The Assistant Executive Director explained that UNEP's 1996-1997 trade programme would focus on three key areas: greater emphasis on national capacity-building; more focused empirical and policy analysis, and increased emphasis on environmental assessments of trade liberalization and trade policy.

99. The Assistant of the Executive Director noted that the combined Environmental Economics and Trade subprogramme elements represented approximately 3 per cent of the 1996-1997 programme, a reduction of approximately one per cent from the 1994-1995 subprogramme.

100. He also noted that the proposed budget for Environmental Law was $9.5 million, including $1.5 million in support of the proposed Information Unit on Conventions in Geneva, and $350,000 for the coordination of the functions of the convention secretariats. Based on increased demands and the need to broaden geographical scope, the subprogramme provided for increased technical assistance and information dissemination. In the 1994-1995 biennium, over 27 developing countries and economies in transition received such assistance. Increased information dissemination would take place through formalized cooperation with the World Conservation Union-IUCN.

101. The Assistant Executive Director explained that the subprogramme would include the CSD-mandated support of the elaboration of concepts, requirements and implications of sustainable development and international law, inter alia the negotiation of new international environmental regimes such as a prior informed consent convention.

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102. In conclusion, he described the proposed programme element as consideration and promotion of improving policy-relevant research and contained, inter alia, support for the work of the Committee of International Development Institutions on the Environment (CIDIE), support for targeted research, in particular that of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), as well as for gender issues.

Subprogramme element 4.1: Trade and environment

103. A number of representatives and the representative of an international organization expressed support for UNEP's proposed subprogramme on trade and environment. Several representatives noted the importance of providing balanced environmental expertise to the trade-environment discussions, and asked UNEP to cooperate closely with the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, UNCTAD and other organizations.

104. Several representatives expressed concern about the potential implications of trade-environment linkages for developing countries, and the possible use of illegal non-tariff barriers to reduce or deny market access to developing country exports. Several representatives emphasized the need for UNEP more explicitly to take account of the special needs and concerns of developing countries in its trade-environment workplan, and suggested that the subprogramme should reflect the concerns of developing countries more clearly.

105. Several representatives recognized the significance of the third session of the (CSD) and requested that UNEP's proposed activities reflect the carefully negotiated wording of the final decision of the CSD on trade, environment and sustainable development, particularly with regard to recognizing the concerns of developing countries.

106. One representative strongly objected to the trade-environment debate as a developed country agenda, and suggested that UNEP's role would increase the use of unilateral trade measures against developing country exports. The representative requested that UNEP's proposed work on trade and environment, as well as environment and economics, be deleted from the subprogramme.

107. Several representatives stressed the need for continued close cooperation between UNEP and other international organizations, particularly in support of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, UNCTAD, and OECD, and the need to avoid duplication of work.

108. Several other representatives said that the draft programme on trade and environment lacked details and clarification of outputs. A number of representatives requested clarification by the secretariat of items of the workplan, including: identification of which international environmental agreements UNEP proposed to analyse in relation to trade rule; clarification of criteria to be used in environmental assessments of macro-economic and trade policy; identification of

methodologies used in economic analysis of environmental standards and regulations; identification of which five countries were proposed for country-case studies; clarification of why reference was made only to trade-related biodiversity issues; and a suggestion that other issues, including energy and transport, should also be included.

109. A number of representatives emphasized the importance of UNEP concentrating on specific areas in which it had a comparative advantage, for example, analysis of the relationship between international environmental agreements and trade policy, and environmental assessments of trade policy.

110. One representative suggested, following the recommendation of the CSD, that UNEP and UNCTAD further analyse the links between international environmental agreements and trade. That representative suggested that UNEP undertake careful analysis of the effectiveness of trade measures in international environmental agreements and requested UNEP to cooperate with the WTO Secretariat in preparing an analysis in that important area.

111. One representative suggested that UNEP should not convene more workshops and studies in its proposed programme on trade and environment, but concentrate instead on specific policy proposals.

112. Many representatives supported UNEP's proposed work in environmental assessments of trade policy. However, others cautioned that such assessments needed to ensure a balanced approach, which identified positive effects and took account of the special concerns of developing countries. Several representatives suggested that assessment methodologies be specifically designed to support developing country trade and development priorities.

113. One representative expressed concern that the proposed workplan reflected an unduly negative impression, and suggested a more balanced approach. Another representative requested that UNEP's proposed workplan include plans to organize an international meeting on environmental assessments of trade liberalization and indicated her country's support for such a meeting. Some representatives suggested that proposed work on environmental assessments should involve the North American Free Trade Agreement and the European Union.

Subprogramme element 4.2: Environmental economics

114. A number of representatives expressed support for UNEP's proposed work on environmental economics. However, one representative cautioned developing countries that increased emphasis on economic instruments was being used as an alternative to UNCED commitments for new and additional financing, and requested that UNEP's proposed work on environmental economics be deleted.

115. One representative suggested that innovative financing was not the mandate of UNEP and should be left to national Governments. Several representatives requested more details of UNEP's programme on environmental economics and innovative financing.

116. One representative requested more information on UNEP's proposed workplan on innovative financing, and suggested that it should take into account the decision of the third session of the CSD.

117. One representative stressed the need for UNEP to focus its environment and economics activities on capacity-building.

118. The Assistant Executive Director noted that UNEP strongly supported an open, non-discriminatory and multilateral trading system, and opposed the use of unilateralism in trade and the environment. A major emphasis of UNEP's trade and environmental economics programmes was on capacity-building for developing countries. He said that the secretariat would be pleased to provide clarification of the specific questions raised during discussions on subprogramme elements 4.1 and 4.2.

Subprogramme element 4.3: Environmental law

119. Many representatives suggested that UNEP should continue to play a lead role in the field of environmental law. A number of representatives emphasized that UNEP should not work on general conceptual legal frameworks, but rather focus its work on implementing the programme components of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the 1990s, the Montevideo II Programme, such as assessment of the effectiveness of the existing international environmental agreements, activities to ensure implementation of such instruments, dispute settlement and arbitration procedure. They considered it more appropriate for UNEP to compile and consolidate the existing international environmental agreements than to develop a general framework instrument on international environmental law.

120. The Assistant Executive Director informed the Committee of several activities envisaged in a subprogramme element concerning international environmental law framework.

121. One representative said that the development of a non-judicial mechanism for avoidance and settlement of environmental disputes, suggested in subprogramme 3, should be included in subprogramme element 4.3 on environmental law.

122. Several representatives sought a more active role for UNEP to facilitate development and implementation of regional environmental agreements.

123. Several other representatives pointed out the importance of UNEP's activities in capacity-building for developing countries in the field of environmental law, including training activities. One representative welcomed collaboration between UNEP and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in providing training activities.

124. One representative said that, because of differences among countries, it might be difficult to develop model national legislation for use by countries.

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125. Regarding coordination of convention secretariats, several representatives stated that UNEP's role should be to facilitate the work of the convention secretariats in carrying out their respective functions.

126. One representative, speaking on behalf of the European Union, and one other representative stated that the proposed budget allocation to an Information Unit on Conventions should be reallocated to other programme elements. In that regard, one representative said that those resources could be allocated to IRPTC. Two representatives pointed out the potentially important role of an IUC for UNEP in providing information on conventions.

127. The representative of UNDP informed the Committee of the ongoing collaboration among UNDP, UNEP and the World Conservation Union-IUCN in assisting ten African countries in developing national environmental legislation that could be a model for further technical assistance in that area. It was stated that UNDP and UNEP could further strengthen collaboration for the implementation of international environmental agreements.

Subprogramme element 4.4: Coordination and promotion of policy-relevant research

128. One representative considered that promoting integration of environmental concerns into the activities of financial institutions, as proposed in the programme, would be important. Another representative pointed out that the cost of activities proposed under the element "promote targeted policy research on emerging issues" should be absorbed in the administrative costs of UNEP.

Subprogramme 5: Global and regional servicing and support

129. The Assistant Executive Director of the Environment Assessment Division introduced the main thrusts of the subprogramme: (a) coherent, scientifically sound environmental information for decision-making; (b) public awareness and participation of major groups; and (c) regional cooperation and advisory services to Governments, all having strong links with institutional capacity-building activities. Summarizing the four proposed subprogramme elements, he said that element 5.1, environmental assessment, would focus on global, regional and subregional state-of-the-environment assessments, which included consideration of socio-economic, political and institutional driving forces and interaction. More emphasis would be put on transforming data and information into accessible formats of direct use in the decision-making cycle. Activities were formulated inter alia, through subregional user consultations and through agreements with subregional bodies and organizations. Subregional consultations would continue and forces would be joined with existing United Nations, international, subregional, regional and national collaborating centres for which networks were being set up and for which the coordinating role for the United Nations System-wide Earthwatch with the United Nations agency partners was important.

130. Element 5.2, support to regional and subregional cooperation would focus on the promotion of new and existing regional and subregional frameworks for environmental action under 5.2.1, and on the provision, upon request, of environmental policy and technical advice under 5.2.2. There would be

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differentiation to reflect specific regional preferences, but it would be a continuum. The role of the regional offices would be strengthened through more direct involvement in the programme formulation and delivery, as described in the other four proposed subprogrammes. There would be close consultation and collaboration between regional directors. Specific subprogramme staff members would be relocated to outposted offices and funds allocated under other proposed subprogrammes would be transferred to regional offices.

131. Element 5.3, public awareness, education and outreach to major groups, would focus on targeted public education campaigns, international and regional networks for outreach activities, targeted public information dissemination, environmental promotional programmes like "Clean up the World", an environmental information query-response service and an information service centre. There would be more targeted and integrated activities across all subprogrammes, but specific educational programmes would be phased out.

132. Element 5.4, environmental information service - UNEPNET was a new activity cluster which would focus on an open information system for "one-stop-shopping" query-response, helping to link all data and information resources of UNEP - Infoterra, Global Resource Information Database (GRID), IRPTC, Information and Public Affairs, sectoral programmes, etc. - under one management framework. That activity area would help to make UNEP's information handling more structured, efficient and cost-effective and provide more efficient delivery and access to information held by UNEP and its partners. An Ad Hoc Information Coordination Committee had been established to coordinate all those activities.

Subprogramme element 5.1: Environmental assessment

133. Many representatives expressed strong support for this subprogramme. Pointing out that, although assessment was a long-term process, one representative suggested that medium-term outputs should be specified. A number of others queried the balance of activities in regions, the omission of specific topics of regional interest and the criteria used in selecting activities.

134. One representative stressed the need for development of early-warning systems. Another sought an assurance that funds for the assessment of atmosphere and drought monitoring were allocated under 5.1. Yet another urged the avoidance of duplication by considering earlier assessment activities. One other representative encouraged UNEP to seek methods for coordinating existing activities, mentioning that reports should be action-oriented. One representative urged that environmental assessment studies be extended to small island States in view of their specificity, with special regard to the marine environment.

135. Several representatives requested UNEP to collaborate fully with relevant bodies and institutions, including United Nations agencies, CSD, NGOs, and Regional Offices. Several representatives called for strengthened cooperation with regional bodies, such as the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the South Pacific

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Regional Environment Programme, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme and SADC. One suggested that Governments be cited as partners.

136. One representative considered the budget allocation to the Global Environment Outlook to be too high, compared with the allocations for assessments at regional and national level.

137. The Assistant Executive Director explained that the selection of activities for inclusion in the ENRIN institutional capacity-building work under programme element 1.4 was made on the basis of requests from countries and the available expertise within UNEP, usually in consultation with potential donor partners including UNDP, the Asian Development Bank and other regional development banks. He further explained that state-of-the-environment reporting was initiated by countries through their regional commissions and subregional organizations and that a large number of cooperative activities were well underway in all regions.

138. The representative of UNESCO, speaking on behalf of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, suggested that, in relation to the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) and the United Nations System-wide Earthwatch activities, a specific reference could be made to the Global Oceans Observing System (GOOS), with which UNEP collaborated and which was linked to GTOS. One representative asked for clarification on the implementation of GTOS through the GEF. Another asked for clarification as to what the system would observe and how it would differ from other observation systems. The representative of UNDP expressed strong support for the environmental assessment element and indicated that the organization she represented was cooperating with UNEP in that field.

139. The Assistant Executive Director explained that GTOS and the two other global observing systems attempted to generate coherent information on climate change from existing sources. GTOS would avoid becoming a purely scientific system by, for instance, specifically targeting convention secretariats. He referred to a detailed briefing note on GTOS. He also explained that GEO would be UNEP's equivalent to the World Bank and UNDP reports.

Subprogramme element 5.2: Support to regional and subregional cooperation

140. Many representatives expressed general support for this subprogramme element. Several asked for a budget increase. Two representatives expressed concern about the balance of resource allocation between regions and one specifically asked UNEP to ensure that those regions which had not received much assistance so far would be considered. Two representatives queried the level of resources devoted to South Asia. One representative suggested that the UNEP secretariat initiate action for establishing institutionalized cooperation with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), with a view to enhancing its support for the countries of the subregion in environment-related fields. Another wished to see the support under element 5.2.1 extended to cooperative action by regional island groupings in the field of the environment.

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141. Two representatives expressed concern about duplication between this and other subprogrammes. Several wished to strengthen cooperation within the regions with existing regional and subregional bodies. Two representatives asked for information on the modalities for cooperation with UNDP, in particular with regard to its Capacity 21 programme. One requested information on the split in financial contributions between UNEP and UNDP. Two others suggested that Governments be included as partners.

142. There was support for the advisory services to Governments under subprogramme element 5.2.2, but several representatives asked for clarification on how UNEP decided on such advisory services and what those services involved.

143. The representative of the Executive Director informed the Committee that the operational links between UNEP activities and Capacity 21 of UNDP were currently being formulated. UNEP would contribute partly with funds from the Environment Fund and partly through Trust Funds. He also explained that advisory services under 5.2.2.1 were country-driven and varied according to the kind of request. He said that there was no double counting between this activity and activities listed in other subprogrammes. In the latter, funds were allocated to specific activities, while this activity was for ad hoc, new requests for assistance from Governments.

Subprogramme element 5.3: Public awareness, education and outreach to major groups

144. Many representatives, in expressing their general support for the proposed subprogramme areas, considered the activities cited in element 5.3 as priority activities. One suggested that a reference to the mandate provided in chapter 36 of Agenda 21 should be cited. Several representatives suggested collaboration with regional and national NGOs to implement such programme activities in order to improve cost efficiency.

145. Many representatives considered that education was under-funded and expressed concern that some activities appeared to have been phased out. Two representatives specifically regretted UNEP's planned withdrawal from an ongoing cooperative graduate education programme. One representative referred to the ongoing UNEP/UNESCO/University of Dresden courses on environmental management training and pointed out that these well-established courses met the acknowledged need for a continuous improvement in the level of environmental management for qualified government officials of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and should not be phased out in 1996. Some suggested increased allocations for environmental ethics, and several others suggested an increase in public awareness allocations.

146. Several representatives said there was an imbalance in regional allocations, while others noted that the programme did not cite organizations such as UNITAR, ILO, the Centre for Human Rights, and UNESCO as collaborating partners. One representative believed that Governments should be cited as partners in element 5.3.2.1.

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147. One representative cited the need for UNEP to support programmes focusing on vocational training. Two pointed to a need for training of trainers, and two others suggested the development of a regional training institute in environmental management and law in the South Asia region. Two representatives suggested that UNEP develop evaluation procedures to assess the effectiveness of education, training and information dissemination activities.

148. The representative of the Executive Director explained that UNEP had entered the field of environmental education when it was an emerging issue, but, as formal environmental education was now universally available, it intended to shift the focus of its education and training activities to emerging critical issues, such as environmental data and information management, cleaner production, sustainable production and consumption, environmental law, and environmental ethics, among others. He indicated that UNEP would like to continue to support the cooperative graduate education programmes, but that that was subject to the availability of donor sponsorship. He also indicated that UNEP would continue cooperation with UNESCO on education and training, but would reprogramme its activities.

Subprogramme element 5.4: Environmental information services

149. There was general strong support for this subprogramme element which, it was said, would enable developing countries to gain timely access to environmental data needed to support sustainable development. One representative, speaking on behalf of the European Union, requested additional information from the secretariat regarding the overall cost of the UNEPNET programme, asking how much had already been spent and who were the targeted users? Several others stressed the need for a user-friendly system that insured wide access and linkages to other information systems.

150. Two representatives suggested that funds allocated to the activity should be increased, while two others suggested that the allocation cited should be reduced if simpler existing tools and technologies were applied. UNEP should also collaborate with other institutions and United Nations agencies to explore lower cost options.

151. In response, the Assistant Executive Director of the Assessment Division explained that an important function of UNEPNET was to ensure compatibility and synergy among the various database activities and that UNEP was consulting with experts to ensure that technology choices were compatible with existing and emerging information systems. He also indicated that the actual cost of UNEPNET implied an overall budget reduction, since many of the current GRID and Infoterra activities would be merged. The individual core allocations for GRID and Infoterra were reduced as compared with 1994-1995, in keeping with the overall UNEP programme reduction.

152. The spokesman of the Group of 77 thanked the secretariat for presenting the 1996-1997 programme and said his Group wished to make the following general statement on the proposed programme:

(a) The Group of 77 recognizes that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has a medium-term programme which should guide activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4 of UNEP's proposed programme;

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(b) The CSD recommendations and decisions should be taken into account when the secretariat is formulating the programmes in this area;

(c) The Group of 77 underscores the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources, and that should be the governing principle in the studies that would be undertaken by UNEP under the proposed programme;

(d) The Group of 77 requests a briefing on activities 4.1 and 4.2 of UNEP's proposed programme before a final decision could be taken on the subprogramme, particularly on trade and the environment and on environmental economics;

(e) The Group of 77 requests further explanation on activity 4.3 on environmental law before a final decision could be taken.

C. Consideration of draft decisions

153. At its 9th meeting, on 18 May 1995, the Programme Committee considered draft decisions contained in documents UNEP/GC.18/L.2, UNEP/GC.18/L.3, UNEP/GC.18/L.5, UNEP/GC.18/L.6, UNEP/GC.18/L.7, UNEP/GC.18/L.9, UNEP/GC.18/L.10, UNEP/GC.18/L.12, UNEP/GC.18/L.13, UNEP/GC.18/L.17 and UNEP/GC.18/L.20. The draft decisions, some of them amended from the floor, were approved by the Committee for transmission to the plenary session of the Governing Council. The Committee agreed to set up an open-ended small working group to advise on the proposed programme of work for 1996-1997, contained in document UNEP/GC.18/9, and on budgetary allocations to the subprogrammes.

154. At its 10th meeting, on 19 May 1995, the Committee considered draft decisions and proposals contained in the following documents: UNEP/GC.18/L.25, considered together with UNEP/GC.18/PC/CRP.13; UNEP/GC.18/L.28; and UNEP/GC.18/CRP.3. The Committee approved the draft decisions, as amended from the floor, for transmission to the plenary session of the Council.

155. At its 11th meeting, on 19 May 1995, the Committee heard the report of the chairman of the open-ended small working group to advise on the proposed programme of work and budgetary allocations to the subprogrammes. The working group, he said, had had 10 core delegations and had comprised about 20 representatives. They had reached consensus on both the tasks delegated to them, which would be reflected in a written report to the Committee. He explained that he had consulted widely outside his group with other representatives, the secretariat and with the Chairman of the Programme Committee.

156. The chairman of the small working group said that his group had agreed to propose amending the pre-sessional draft decision, contained in document UNEP/GC.18/9/Add.1, approving UNEP's proposed programme of work. That decision would have an annex apportioning the appropriation for Fund programme activities in the 1996-1997 biennium among the five subprogrammes.

157. The working group had achieved unanimity in respect of the appropriations to subprogrammes 1 to 3. In respect of subprogramme 4, however, there had been one divergent opinion, and in respect of subprogramme 5, two. A representative of the secretariat read out the percentage appropriations agreed to by the working group. He also read out one representative's counter-proposal in respect of subprogrammes 4 and 5, and another representative's counter-proposal in respect of subprogramme 5.

158. The Chairman of the Programme Committee thanked the chairman and the members of his small working group and proposed that the Committee should consider the draft decision when it became available the following day.

159. One representative objected strongly to the use of the word consensus by the chairman of the small working group, saying that there had been none. She reiterated previous requests to the Chairman of the Programme Committee to place square brackets around subprogramme elements 4.1 and 4.2 in the proposed programme of work. The Chairman took note of the request, but said that it would be premature to discuss a document which was not yet before the Committee.

160. Also at its 11th meeting, the Committee considered draft decisions and proposals contained in documents UNEP/GC.18/PC/CRP.7; UNEP/GC.18/PC/CRP.11. The Committee approved the draft decisions, as amended from the floor, for transmission to the plenary session of the Council.

161. At the 12th meeting, on 20 May 1995, the chairman of the small working group introduced document UNEP/GC.18/9/Add.1/Rev.1, commending it to the Committee for adoption. Again thanking the chairman and members of his small working group for their hard work, the Chairman of the Committee said that he was pleased with the unanimity the group had reached on the apportionment to subprogrammes 1-3, but expressed some regret that that had not also been the case with subprogrammes 4 and 5. He advised the Committee to try and achieve as much agreement as possible.

162. One representative said that it would be impossible to reach agreement on the operative paragraphs in the document until the figures in the annex had been settled. The Chairman sought the agreement of the Committee to the apportionment figures in the annex. One representative stated that the figures attempted to convey, in the spirit of compromise, the sense of what representatives had been saying in their interventions, although they did not, of course, represent the precise views expressed by individual representatives. It might be possible to add a paragraph to the draft decision asking for the views of individual countries to be taken into account by the Executive Director in implementing the work programme.

163. Another representative was against re-opening the debate on apportionment and suggested the use of square brackets to record any remaining disagreement, together with a compromise paragraph which he had drafted. On being invited by the Chairman to join the consensus, the representative concerned declined. The chairman of the working group suggested adopting the apportionments to subprogrammes 1-3 as a package and annexing the Committee's report to the draft decision. One representative recommended the adoption of the draft decision with square brackets to indicate areas of concern to the two representatives in difficulty with the draft.

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164. One representative insisted that her views on the apportionments to subprogrammes 4 and 5 should be heard by the Committee. By replacing the square brackets she had previously placed around the whole of subprogramme 4, with brackets around some of the subprogramme elements instead, and by introducing certain textual amendments, she could agree to increase the apportionment from 0 per cent to 0.2 per cent.

165. Several representatives said that, since the overwhelming majority was ready to approve the document, it should be referred to plenary with square brackets. Further discussion was not justified. An offer to seek a compromise solution with the two representatives concerned by a third, and supported by a fourth, was declined by the Chairman who saw no real prospect of movement and preferred not to adjourn the meeting.

166. There was a general desire to ease the work of the Informal Negotiating Committee by remitting a document as free as possible of brackets. A number of representatives proposed amendments to that end. The Committee decided to remit the document with square brackets through the Negotiating Committee to the plenary as document UNEP/GC.18/9/Add.1/Rev.2.

167. At its 12th meeting, on 20 May 1995, the Committee also considered the two draft decisions contained in document UNEP/GC.18/PC/CRP.25. The Committee approved the draft decisions, as amended from the floor, for transmission to the plenary session of the Council.

168. At its 13th meeting, on 20 May 1995, the Committee considered the draft decisions and proposals contained in documents UNEP/GC.18/L.27; in UNEP/GC.18/PC/CRP.15 and UNEP/GC.18/PC/CRP.23 together; and in a proposal combining elements from UNEP/GC.18/CRP.20 and UNEP/GC.18/CRP.21. The Committee approved the draft decisions, as amended from the floor, for transmission to the plenary of the Governing Council.

169. It was decided that those proposals and draft decisions on which no agreement had been reached in the Committee would be forwarded to the Bureau of the Governing Council for a decision on further action.

D. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting

170. At its 13th meeting, on 20 May 1995, the Committee adopted its report, as contained in documents UNEP/GC.18/PC/L.2 and Adds 1-4, on the understanding that the secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with finalization of the report on the last part of the proceedings.

171. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairman declared that the Committee had concluded its work at 6.15 p.m. on Saturday, 20 May 1995.

Annex III

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

A. Introduction

1. Under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Ongeri (Kenya), Vice-President of the Council, the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters held 10 meetings, between 15 and 19 May 1995, to consider agenda item 7 (Administrative and budgetary matters).

2. At its 1st meeting, held on 15 May 1995, the Committee approved the organization of its work as proposed in document UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.1. At the 3rd meeting of the Committee, on 16 May 1995, Ms. D. Alopaeus-Stahl (Sweden) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

3. In considering the item, the Committee had before it the following documentation: the report of the Executive Director on new developments in conference-servicing (UNEP/GC.18/10); the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds (UNEP/GC.18/13 and Corr.1 and 2); the report by the Executive Director on the Environment Fund: use of resources in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 and proposed use of projected resources in 1996-1997 (UNEP/GC.18/14 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Corr.1); the report of the Executive Director on the Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993 (UNEP/GC.18/16); the report of the Executive Director on the Mercure satellite telecommunications system (UNEP/GC.18/21 and Corr.1); the report of the Executive Director on the programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1994-1995/Management and administrative support costs budget of the Environment Fund: proposed budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (UNEP/GC.18/32 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2); and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the performance report in the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and the proposed budget for management and administrative support costs for the biennium 1996-1997 (UNEP/GC.18/L.1). The Committee also had before it the following draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives: new developments in conference-servicing (UNEP/GC.18/L.14); Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993 (UNEP/GC.18/L.19); resources of the Environment Fund (UNEP/GC.18/L.31); individual and corporate consultancies (UNEP/GC.18/L.32); enhancing the utilization of human resources and the level of expertise within the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.18/L.33); Mercure satellite telecommunications system (UNEP/GC.18/L.34); and prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement (UNEP/GC.18/L.35). The Committee's attention was also drawn to the report of the Executive Director on the proposed programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997 (UNEP/GC.18/9 and Add.1) and the report of the Executive Director on estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention (UNEP/GC.18/30), which contained relevant background material.

4. At its 1st meeting, the Committee adopted the suggested timetable for its meetings set out in document UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.1.

5. The representative of the Executive Director for administrative and budgetary matters introduced agenda item 7 and the documentation relating thereto.

6. One representative said that some of the reports had been shortened to the extent of becoming almost meaningless. He was particularly concerned that no figures were given for the implementation of Agenda 21 programmes, despite a specific request by the Governing Council.

7. One representative, speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the brevity of the documentation and the fact that most documents had been received in good time in all the languages. Unfortunately, that had not been so in the case of certain important documents: the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (UNEP/GC.18/L.1) had still not been distributed. Moreover, some documents had not attained the desirable degree of clarity and transparency.

8. The representative of the Executive Director said that, unfortunately, ACABQ had held its relevant meeting a mere week previously: hence the delay in receiving and distributing its report. He hoped that it would very shortly be available in all languages.

B. The Environment Fund: availability and use of resources

9. Several representatives made enquiries about their countries' pledges and payments as presented in the report of the Executive Director on the Environment Fund: use of resources in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 and proposed use of projected resources in 1996-1997 (UNEP/GC.18/14 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Corr.1), and requested the secretariat to provide clarification.

10. Many representatives expressed concern at the decreasing level of contributions to the Environment Fund and some urged Governments to maintain or increase their contributions and to pay in a timely manner, while several others called for a broadened base of contributions. The notion of negotiated contributions was introduced by some representatives.

11. The representative of Poland announced that her country's contribution would be maintained at the level of $100,000 in 1995.

12. The representative of the Republic of Korea said that his country's 1994 contribution was double that of 1993, its 1995 contribution was higher still and that that trend would continue.

13. The representative of China said that the contribution from China had increased every year.

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14. The representative of Denmark said that his Government had been increasing its contribution over the previous three years. He expressed the hope that its example would be followed by other countries.

15. The representatives of Norway and the Netherlands stated that their Governments had maintained their levels of contribution.

16. The representative of Japan said that his country had never decreased its contribution to the Environment Fund and intended to maintain that policy, provided that efficient management of UNEP was properly assured.

17. A number of countries called for the identification of alternative sources of funding, given the decreasing level of voluntary contributions.

18. One representative expressed concern about the declining rate of contributions to the Environment Fund and the simultaneous increase in contribution to trust funds. In his view, the secretariat had not provided a satisfactory explanation for that trend, which should be arrested. In response, the representative of the Executive Director stated that, while UNEP could accept funding if it was in line with programme objectives, it was the prerogative of the contributing Government to decide on where its contributions should go.

19. In response to the concern expressed by one representative that UNEP's implementation of Agenda 21 had not been costed as required by Governing Council decision 17/32, the representative of the Executive Director pointed out that the proposed programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 (UNEP/GC.18/9) answered the requirements of Agenda 21 within the resources UNEP believed would be made available. He added that the report of the Executive Director on estimates of costs for UNEP to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention (UNEP/GC.18/30) provided the response of the Executive Director to decision 17/32.

20. A number of representatives expressed the view that it was difficult to discuss the Environment Fund budget separately from the programme. Some of those representatives proposed that, at the next session of the Governing Council, the proposed programme of work and the level of the appropriation for Fund programme activities should be discussed in the same Committee.

21. Some representatives expressed concern at the substantial carry-overs and requested the Secretariat to provide clarification regarding their level.

22. After reviewing the various options for the level of the appropriation for Fund programme activities for the 1996-1997 biennium, the Committee decided to base the figure to be transmitted to the Programme Committee on estimated contributions of $130 million for the biennium. It was therefore decided to request the Programme Committee to prepare a core programme of $90 million for Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997 and an additional programme of $10 million to be implemented if and when sufficient resources became available.

23. The Committee also suggested that the Programme Committee apportion the appropriation in terms of percentages rather than of actual dollar values.

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24. It was also agreed that the Fund programme reserve be maintained at the level of $5 million in 1996-1997, as proposed by the Executive Director in her report.

25. With regard to the level of the financial reserve, several representatives expressed concern at the level of carry-overs in previous years, but noted with satisfaction a lower carry-over from 1994 to 1995. One representative pointed out that, due to legislative and procedural requirements, donor countries were not always able to make pledges and pay their contributions ahead of time.

26. The Committee decided to recommend a gradual increase of the Financial reserve to the level of $20 million by 1999, as proposed by the Executive Director in her report.

27. The Committee then proceeded to approve for submission to the plenary two draft decisions on the Environment Fund on the basis of texts submitted by the Chairman (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.5), as amended by the United States of America and with the insertion of the figures decided upon elsewhere for the envelope for the preparation of the programme budget for 1998-1999 (see para. 65 below), and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.31). The draft decisions were transmitted to the plenary as draft decisions UNEP/GC.18/31/Add.1 and UNEP/GC.18/L.31/Rev.1, respectively, on the understanding that the apportionment of the approved appropriation was subject to the outcome of the discussion in the Programme Committee.

C. Management of trust funds

28. The representative of the Executive Director for administrative and budgetary matters drew the Committee's attention to the relevant documents concerning the management of trust funds, the basic one being the report of the Executive Director on the topic (UNEP/GC.18/13 and Corr.1 and 2). He noted that the convention-related trust funds generally experienced resource shortfalls that had to be made up by advances from the Fund programme reserve. The ACABQ report commented upon that practice, reminding UNEP of the primary purpose of the programme reserve (UNEP/GC.18/L.1, para. 18). Endeavours to reduce the number of trust funds had proved unsuccessful, since that had not been approved by the participating Governments. In reply to a question, he stated that the overhead applied for each trust fund was 13 per cent, in accordance with the standard rate established by the General Assembly.

29. One representative said that the steady increase in the resources of the trust funds paralleled the decline in those of the Environment Fund. The actual management costs of the trust funds appeared to exceed the 13 per cent limit, and the remainder was borne by the Environment Fund. He was also concerned at the use of the Fund programme reserve to make up shortfalls in the contributions to the trust funds. Several representatives concurred. One of them mentioned, however, that the increasing number of environmental conventions and the secondment of officials to UNEP made the establishment of trust funds inevitable, and added that the 13 per cent limit on overheads was seen as a problem through the United Nations system and would have to be resolved at a system-wide level.

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30. During the discussion of a draft decision submitted by the Group of 77 and China, the Deputy Executive Director emphasized the need to distinguish between the various categories of trust funds. He added that there was a danger that the reduced level of contributions to convention trust funds, leading to depleted resources, would result in a situation tantamount to closing them down, a most undesirable outcome. One representative, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, assured the Committee that the draft decision would be revised to take account of the fears of the convention secretariats.

31. A revised draft decision submitted by the Group of 77 and China (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.3) was considered and approved, as revised by the sponsors and with amendments introduced by Romania and Switzerland, for transmission to the plenary as draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.40.

32. The Committee also approved without amendment a draft decision on trust funds submitted by the Chairman (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.4) for transmission to the plenary as draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.41.

D. New developments in conference-servicing

33. Many representatives expressed their appreciation and support for the Executive Director's report on new developments in conference-servicing (UNEP/GC.18/10). Several representatives suggested that progress reports for other servicing units should be prepared for the next session of the Governing Council.

34. Several representatives expressed dissatisfaction with the sometimes untimely distribution of translated documents.

35. The representative of Kenya assured the Committee of his Government's support in providing the required infrastructure to facilitate the technological innovations programme for conference-servicing, in particular by providing additional telephone lines.

36. The representative of Nigeria said he welcomed the interest shown by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in increased collaboration between ECA and UNEP in remote translation.

37. One representative, while supporting UNEP's "brokering" role in establishing access to the facilities in question, said that that role should be performed without cost to UNEP.

38. In response to requests for clarification, the representative of the Executive Director said that some $150,000 had been saved through the use of remote translation for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and approximately $85,000 would be saved for the current session of the Governing Council. On a separate point, the cost of having a team of in-house interpreters in UNEP was estimated at approximately $1.8 million a year.

39. A draft decision on the subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.14) was approved by the Committee, with one amendment by the United States of America, and transmitted to the plenary as draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.14/Rev.1.

E. Programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1994-1995 and Management and administrative support costs budget of the Environment Fund: proposed budget for the biennium 1996-1997

40. The Acting Chief of the Administrative Service outlined the revised programme and programme support costs (PPSC) budget estimates for 1994-1995 and the proposed management and administrative support costs (MASC) budget for the biennium 1996-1997, as contained in the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.18/32 and Corr.1). The revised estimates for the PPSC for the biennium 1994-1995 had been reduced from $41,829,500 to $41,048,900. The proposed reduction was primarily due to currency fluctuations. The MASC budget had been compiled basically by taking out all the programme elements from the PPSC budget and adding back all the administrative elements that had been financed through projects. Under the MASC budget, the Executive Director was seeking approval of a total of $41,964,000. The comments of ACABQ on the revised estimates for the biennium 1994-1995 and the proposed budget for the biennium 1996-1997 had been circulated under the symbol UNEP/GC.18/L.1 and UNEP's response to those comments could be found in document UNEP/GC.18/32/Add.2.

41. One representative, complimenting the Executive Director on the high quality of the presentation of her report, said that the ACABQ report was advisory in nature and therefore suggested that the Committee should only take note of the report and the UNEP response. He suggested that the Committee should therefore focus on the report of the Executive Director and the draft decision therein.

42. Many representatives supported that procedural proposal, while expressing their deep concern about insufficiencies noted by ACABQ in its report. They stressed that they wanted the Committee of Permanent Representatives to be kept fully informed of actions taken by UNEP in response to the ACABQ report.

43. Several representatives expressed their concern about the high vacancy rate. One representative pointed out that the delay in filling the vacancies adversely affected programme implementation. The Acting Chief of the Administrative Service said that new post classification requirement was one of the main reasons for delays in recruitment. One representative complained about the tight deadline for vacancy announcements.

44. Many representatives expressed the view that the management and administrative support costs (MASC) should have a correlation with the quantum of programme delivery. The Acting Chief of the Administrative Service replied that the MASC budget was not comparable to the PPSC budget. It was, in fact, nine per cent lower in real terms than the PPSC budget for 1994-1995 and a large part of conference services, the management information services, the former Programme Coordination Unit, and telecommunications and electronic services (TES) had been removed from the

Fund programme activities budget to the MASC budget in line with Council decision 17/41. She emphasized that the only new posts before the Council for approval were those of the Ombudsman and a secretary in the Ombudsman Unit.

45. One representative said that he appreciated the efforts of the Executive Director to provide a transparent budget in the new format as requested by decision 17/41. That representative wished it to be noted that the MASC budget was provisional and that it had been authorized for use until the nineteenth session of the Council, at which time an evaluation would have been undertaken and adjustments suggested. He requested UNEP to examine the possibility of participating with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in their development of a new administrative budgeting format to allow transparency and compatibility. He also asked the Executive Director to provide guidelines for a final MASC budget approach for the next session of the Governing Council.

46. There was an overall agreement on the establishment of an Ombudsman Unit in the Office of the Executive Director. However, as to the financing of the Unit, opinion was divided as to whether the additional posts should be established or be accommodated through the redeployment of staff from other units.

47. The Committee approved for transmission to plenary as draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.42 a draft decision submitted by the Chairman (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.6), with amendments introduced by France, on behalf of the European Union, and the United States of America and including a revised appropriation of $41,048,900 for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995, with the revised distribution by programme and object of expenditure proposed by the Executive Director, and an appropriation of $41,964,000 for the management and administrative support costs budget for the biennium 1996-1997, with the expenditure pattern by programme and object of expenditure proposed in the estimates, as amended by the Committee when it approved draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.34 (see para. 76 below).

F. Establishment of a United Nations Office in Nairobi

48. With regard to the report of the Executive Director on the proposed United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) (UNEP/GC.18/32/Add.1), a number of representatives expressed their concern at the decision of the Secretary-General to combine the administrative and conference services of UNEP with those of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), since the separate identities of the two organizations might well be jeopardized. Several of them inquired under what authority that decision was taken, one of them asking what the financial implications would be and another expressed fears concerning the staffing implications. Another representative said that the topic should be debated separately from the main issues covered by the budget documents.

49. A number of representatives expressed their support for the United Nations Office in Nairobi. One of them stated that the decision had been endorsed by the General Assembly, while another pointed out that United Nations Offices in Geneva and Vienna had in no way jeopardized the identities of the United Nations organs in those cities. Yet another representative, speaking on behalf of the Group of

Central and Eastern European countries, gave seven reasons why those countries fully supported the proposed UNON. Another representative wanted to have the full background information on UNON.

50. In her reply, the Acting Chief of Administrative Service stated that the Secretary-General, in his report dated 24 August 1994 to the General Assembly on the structuring of the United Nations Secretariat in the economic and social sectors (A/49/336), had outlined the plans to establish a common administration in Nairobi from 1 January 1996 to provide administrative support services initially to UNEP and to UNCHS (Habitat). She added that the Secretary-General had stated that the proposed United Nations budget for the biennium 1996-1997 would contain proposals to that effect and that the head of the common administration would report to the most senior United Nations official in Nairobi, currently the Executive Director of UNEP, but personnel decisions regarding UNCHS (Habitat) would require the approval of the head of UNCHS (Habitat).

51. She said that the goals set by the Secretary-General were to ensure that the administrative reforms under consideration would contribute to more efficient use of resources, more coherent management and to a stronger United Nations presence in both Nairobi and Africa as a whole.

52. One representative suggested a compromise proposal whereby the Governing Council would note that the Secretary-General was proposing to the General Assembly the establishment of such an office and decide to approve the initial budget subject to General Assembly approval and taking into account certain conditions: that the separate identity of UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) should be maintained in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/212; that the cost of the common administration should be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations; and that no staff members should be laid off because of the reduction in posts. Another representative, supporting that proposal, requested that the Executive Director keep the Committee of Permanent Representatives informed of the implementation of the decision and report thereon to the Governing Council at its next session.

53. After receiving some further information from the secretariat on the background to UNON, and clarification of some of its implications, a number of representatives supported the above proposal. However, several others expressed serious doubts about the feasibility of some of the conditions therein. In order to reach a consensus, one representative undertook to redraft the relevant portions of the proposal to meet those concerns.

54. With regard to the three conditions set out in the proposal, the Deputy Executive Director said that the decision to establish a common administration in no way detracted from General Assembly resolution 47/212. The Acting Chief of the Administrative Service said that, at the current stage, it would not be possible for the United Nations to fund UNON entirely out of the regular budget, and that, as far as UNEP was concerned, there would be no terminations of employment as a result of the common administration.

55. The Committee then proceeded to approve, for transmission to the plenary as draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.43, a draft decision on the subject submitted by Uganda (UNEP/GC.18/PC/L.7), as revised by the sponsor.

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G. Environment Fund: Financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993

56. The Acting Chief of the Administrative Service drew attention to the note by the Executive Director on the financial report and audited accounts of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1992-1993 (UNEP/GC.18/16) and the related draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.19). She said that the financial report and financial statements for the biennium 1992-1993 had been reviewed by the Board of Auditors which had indicated that their examination revealed no weaknesses or errors considered material to the accuracy, completeness and validity of the financial statements as a whole. The Board had placed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of UNEP for the biennium ended 31 December 1993. It had, however, made a number of recommendations for improving the efficiency of the organization, and UNEP had taken action to follow-up and implement them. The financial report and audited accounts had also been considered by ACABQ, which had made no specific comments on the Board's recommendations. The Acting Chief of Administrative Service suggested that the Governing Council take note of the report of the Board of Auditors.

57. Following a suggestion by one representative, the Committee agreed to take up in conjunction with the financial report and audited accounts a draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement (UNEP/GC.18/L.35).

58. Several representatives requested the secretariat to provide details of specific measures taken or planned to avoid a repetition of weaknesses pointed out in the report of the Board of Auditors. One representative, having welcomed the setting-up of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in the United Nations Secretariat, suggested that specific measures to strengthen internal control and the timetable for achieving those controls should be included in the comments on the audit report.

59. The Committee approved draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.19, as amended by Uganda, for transmission to the plenary as draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.19/Rev.1.

60. With regard to draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.35, the representative of the Executive Director suggested the use of the words "Governing Council" rather than "Governments" in paragraph 4.

61. Following statements by several representatives in support of retaining the wording, the Committee approved draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.35, without amendment, for transmission to the plenary as draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.35/Rev.1.

62. The representative of the Executive Director put on record the secretariat's strong reservations concerning that draft decision.

H. Envelope for the preparation of the programme budget for 1998-1999

63. The representative of the Executive Director said that it was the practice of the Governing Council to provide the Executive Director with an envelope on the size of the Fund programme for the next biennium but one, as a planning guideline for proposals to be presented at the next regular session of the Governing Council. He introduced the Executive Director's proposal of $130 million for 1998-1999, as contained in her report (UNEP/GC.18/14/Add.1 and Corr.1).

64. One representative said that, while a target of $90 million might be more realistic, a planning figure of $105 million would be a less pessimistic approach. The latter proposal was supported by several representatives. While recognizing the soundness of the $105 million proposal, two representatives pointed out that, as the end of the century approached, it would be more appropriate to approve a figure of $130 million. They appealed to the major donors to increase their contributions accordingly.

65. The Committee agreed to propose that, for the biennium 1998-1999, the Executive Director prepare two alternative Fund programmes of $105 million and $130 million, and to incorporate that proposal into draft decision UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.5, which had been approved for transmission to plenary as draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.31/Add.1 (see para. 27 above).

I. Mercure satellite telecommunications system

66. The representative of the Executive Director for administrative and budgetary matters introduced the report of the Executive Director on the Mercure satellite telecommunications system (UNEP/GC.18/21 and Corr.1) and also drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 48 of the report of the Executive Director on the programme and programme support costs and the management and administrative support costs budgets (UNEP/GC.18/32/Corr.1), which referred to Telecommunications and Electronic Services section of UNEP, the unit that would supervise the establishment of the system.

67. Several representatives expressed their appreciation to the donors who had agreed to contribute to the Mercure system. One of those representatives also expressed his appreciation for the installation of new technology in a United Nations centre in a developing country. One representative also thanked the Government of Kenya for its willingness to cooperate with UNEP in the installation of the system.

68. One representative expressed his Government's concern about a number of issues, including the compatibility of the Mercure system with the United Nations "backbone" communications system and its technical viability and cost- effectiveness. The same representative wished to know what efforts had been made to fund additional acquisitions for future expansion of the system.

69. The representative of the host country congratulated UNEP on the initiation of the Mercure project and assured it of the full support of his Government. He emphasized, however, that, as agreed, the facility must be used for the transmission

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of environmental data and should be well maintained. He informed the Committee that technical negotiations between UNEP and the Kenya Post and Telecommunications Corporation were still continuing, with a view to identifying the best possible ways and means of installing the Mercure satellite telecommunications system at UNEP headquarters.

70. In response, the representative of the secretariat confirmed that the Mercure system would be compatible with the United Nations "backbone" communications system and that appropriate cost-benefit analyses had been carried out, the results of which confirmed the viability and cost-effectiveness of the Mercure system. He further noted that the commercial systems mentioned by representatives were already in use at UNEP but had limited capacity and could therefore not be used for the transmission of high-capacity data.

71. Two representatives suggested that regular monitoring and evaluation of the Mercure project should be carried out and a report submitted to the Governing Council at its nineteenth regular session.

72. One representative called for the full utilization of the Mercure facility by United Nations agencies and by developing countries, to which assistance should be extended to enable them to utilize the data available.

73. Two representatives expressed serious reservations concerning the legal authority of the Executive Director to sign such an agreement without the specific prior approval of the General Assembly.

74. Several representatives recommended that all the recurrent costs of operating and maintaining the Mercure system be charged to the MASC budget, as recommended by ACABQ, whereas several others thought that the recurrent costs should be defrayed as proposed in the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.18/32 and Corr.1).

75. The representative of Italy informed the Committee of his Government's willingness to consider a contribution of around $250,000 to assist in the management and maintenance of the Diana communications system until its integration into the Mercure system.

76. The draft decision on the subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.34) was approved by the Committee, as amended by Italy, Switzerland and the United States of America, and transmitted to the plenary as draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.34/Rev.1.

J. Individual and corporate consultancies

77. The Committee approved the draft decision on individual and corporate consultancies submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.18/L.32), as amended by the Netherlands on behalf of an informal working group established by the Chairman, for transmission to the plenary as draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.32/Rev.1.

K. Enhancing the utilization of human resources and the level of expertise within UNEP

78. The Committee approved without amendment the draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on enhancing the utilization of human resources and the level of expertise within UNEP (UNEP/GC.18/L.33) for transmission to the plenary as draft decision UNEP/GC.18/L.33/Rev.1.

L. Adoption of the report

79. Upon completion of its deliberations on agenda item 7, the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Matters, at its 10th meeting, adopted the present report on the basis of its draft report (UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.2 and Add.1 and Add.2).

Annex IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Symbol	Title
UNEP/GC.18/1 and Corr.1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/GC.18/1/Add.1/Rev.1 and Corr.1	Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work
UNEP/GC.18/2	Executive Director's report on Joint UNEP/DHA activities
UNEP/GC.18/3 and Corr.1 and 2	Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1993-1994
UNEP/GC.18/4 and Corr.1	Earthwatch, environment monitoring and assessment
UNEP/GC.18/5	Cleaner production, environmental technology assessment, Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level, development of international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts that exporters of a technology could feasibly provide to importers
UNEP/GC.18/6	Application of environmental norms by military establishments: action taken by the secretariat for the implementation of Governing Council decision 17/5
UNEP/GC.18/6/Add.1	Information received pursuant to paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 17/5
UNEP/GC.18/7	Development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade
UNEP/GC.18/7/Add.1	Activities related to measures beyond the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure which might be considered in conjunction with the development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the PIC procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade (PIC Convention)
UNEP/GC.18/8 and Corr.1	Progress report, including a plan of action, on the development and use of environmental indicators

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UNEP/GC.18/8/Add.1	Programme of work on indicators for sustainable development
UNEP/GC.18/9	Proposed programme of work: Fund programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997
UNEP/GC.18/9/Add.1	Adoption of the programme: draft decision proposed by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.18/10	New developments in conference servicing
UNEP/GC.18/11	The role of women in environment and development
UNEP/GC.18/12	Progress of work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
UNEP/GC.18/13 and Corr.1 and 2	Management of Trust Funds
UNEP/GC.18/14/ and Corr.1	Environment Fund: use of Resources in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 and proposed use of projected resources in 1996-1997
UNEP/GC.18/14/Add.1 and Corr.1	The Environment Fund: use of resources in bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 and proposed use of projected resources in 1996-1997: update as of 30 April 1995
UNEP/GC.18/15 and Corr.1	International Environmental Technology Centres
UNEP/GC.18/16	Environment Fund: Financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993
UNEP/GC.18/17 and Corr.1	The Climate Agenda - international climate-related programmes
UNEP/GC.18/18 and Corr.1	The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories
UNEP/GC.18/19 and Corr.1	Implementation of Governing Council decision 17/27: "Action for countries with economies in transition"
UNEP/GC.18/20	Participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility
UNEP/GC.18/21 and Corr.1	Mercure satellite telecommunications system
UNEP/GC.18/22 and Corr.1	Periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions

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UNEP/GC.18/22/Add.1	Periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions
UNEP/GC.18/23 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2	International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment
UNEP/GC.18/24	Executive Director's statement on the environment
UNEP/GC.18/25	UNEP action programme on environment and economics
UNEP/GC.18/26	Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of major international events
UNEP/GC.18/27 and Corr.1	Environment and sustainable development
UNEP/GC.18/28	Issues arising from resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, specifically calling for action by UNEP
UNEP/GC.18/29 and Corr.1	Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNEP/GC.18/29/Add.1	Resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its fifteenth session on cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme on the human environment
UNEP/GC.18/30	Estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention
UNEP/GC.18/31	Review of the role and function of the regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme, including a plan of action to enhance the process of strengthening the regional and liaison offices
UNEP/GC.18/32 and Corr.1	Programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1994-1995. Management and administrative support costs budget of the Environment Fund: proposed budget for the biennium 1996-1997
UNEP/GC.18/32/Add.1	The United Nations Office in Nairobi

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UNEP/GC.18/32/Add.2	Programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1994-1995. Management and administrative support costs budget of the Environment Fund: proposed budget for the biennium 1996-1997
UNEP/GC.18/33	Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council of UNEP: International Cooperation in the field of the environment for 1995
UNEP/GC.18/34	Policy statement by the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.18/34/Add.1	Statement by the Executive Director at the opening of the eighteenth session of the Governing Council, 15 May 1995
UNEP/GC.18/34/Add.2	Statement by the Executive Director at the opening of the high-level plenary segment of the eighteenth session of the Governing Council, 22 May 1995
UNEP/GC.18/35	Developments resulting from the work of the joint IAEA/IMO/UNEP Working Group on carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by seas
UNEP/GC.18/36 and Corr.1	Proposal for a future strategy document in the field of the environment as a successor to the System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme (SWMTEP)
UNEP/GC.18/36/Add.1 and Corr.1	Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group (IAEG)
UNEP/GC.18/37	Statement of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) on the status of women in the secretariats of the United Nations system
UNEP/GC.18/Inf.1 and Add.1	Memoranda of Understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other organizations in the United Nations system
UNEP/GC.18/Inf.2	Executive summary of the 1992 Annual Report of the Executive Director
UNEP/GC.18/Inf.3	State of preparedness of documents for the eighteenth session
UNEP/GC.18/Inf.4	Executive summary of the 1993 Annual Report of the Executive Director

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UNEP/GC.18/Inf.5	Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit
UNEP/GC.18/Inf.6	Second Meeting on Coordination of Secretariats of Environmental Conventions, Nairobi, 14 and 16 May 1995
UNEP/GC.18/Inf.7	In-depth evaluation of the programme on environment
UNEP/GC.18/L.1	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and the proposed budget for management and administrative support costs for the biennium 1996-1997
UNEP/GC.18/L.2	Improvement of the international response to environmental emergencies: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.3	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.4	International environmental technology centres: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.5	Action for countries with economies in transition: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.6	Implications for the United Nations Environment Programme of major international events: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.7	Issues arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, specifically calling for action by the United Nations Environment Programme: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.8	Estimates of costs for the United Nations Environment Programme to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 recommended for its attention: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

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UNEP/GC.18/L.9	Joint IAEA/IMO/UNEP Working Group on the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
222UNEP/GC.18/L.10	Earthwatch, environmental monitoring and assessment: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.11 and Corr.1	Development of an international legally binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals in international trade: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.12	International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.13	Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.14	New developments in conference servicing: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.15	Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.16	Clean production, environmental technology assessment, Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level, international guidelines on information on potential environmental impacts of exports: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.17	Environmental indicators: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.18	Environment and sustainable development: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.19	Environment Fund: Financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1992-1993 ended 31 December 1993: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

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UNEP/GC.18/L.20	Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (Habitat): draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.21	The Climate Agenda: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.22	Statement on the environment: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.23	Future strategy document in the field of the environment: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.24	Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.25	Role and function of the regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.26	Further development of international environmental law aiming at sustainable development: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.27	Application of environmental norms by military establishments: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.28	North-East Asia Regional Environment Programme: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.29	The role and the priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.30	New state-of-the environment report: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.31	Resources of the Environment Fund: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives

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UNEP/GC.18/L.32	Individual and corporate consultancies: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.33	Enhancing the utilization of human resources and the level of expertise within the United Nations Environment Programme: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.34	Mercure satellite telecommunications system: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/L.35	Prevention of waste, fraud and mismanagement: draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives
UNEP/GC.18/FC/L.1	Suggested timetable for the Committee for Administrative and Budgetary matters
UNEP/GC.18/PC/L.1	Suggested timetable for the Programme Committee

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